



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for July 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **12 Jun – Tinley Park Five indicted**

*The five antifascists alleged to have beaten a group of white supremacists in Illinois were indicted on June 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be hosting a letter-writing dinner for these folks in the next month, coinciding with a call for a July 31<sup>st</sup> day of antifa actions in solidarity with the five. Below is a corporate news article about their indictment as well as some analysis by other antifa and other updates.*

#### **MORE:**

Five Indiana men charged in a mob attack at a Tinley Park restaurant last month appeared in court this morning, each with a private attorney by their side, at least four of whom said they are taking the cases for free.

During a hearing in Bridgeview, a Cook County assistant state's attorney said a grand jury returned an indictment for the men. Each defendant faces 37 felony counts including armed violence, aggravated battery, property damage and mob action, records show.

They are alleged to have been among an estimated 18 masked attackers who entered the Ashford House restaurant about 12:30 p.m. May 19. The attackers were dressed in black and wielding batons and hammers, targeting a meeting they believed was organized by white supremacists, prosecutors have said.

Shortly after the incident, a Tinley Park police officer stopped a red Dodge Neon carrying five Indiana men a few miles from the restaurant. Prosecutors said police found dark hoodies, scarves, gloves, a knife and batons in their car.

Charged are three brothers, Jason W. Sutherlin, 33, of Gosport, Cody L. Sutherlin, 23, of Bloomington, and Dylan J. Sutherlin, 20, of Bloomington. Also arrested were Alex R. Stuck, 22, Bloomington, and John S. Tucker, 26, of Spencer. The men are being held on bail.

A prosecutor said they intend to seek DNA samples from the men to test an axe-like weapon, a hammer, a wooden chair leg, swabs of stains from a sidewalk, clothing, hats and gloves. An arraignment was scheduled for June 21.

The Anti-Racist Action Network has said a group of anti-fascists were responsible for the attack. Prosecutors have said the targeted diners claimed to be part of an Illinois European heritage association. The association is affiliated with websites that tout white supremacy, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Members of the group denied they were attending a white supremacist meeting.

After the brief hearing this morning, defense attorneys hinted that Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez could have difficulty selling this case to the public given some of the victims' alleged ties to white supremacy groups.

"I don't know if it's hard or not for Ms. Alvarez to represent white supremacists," said defense attorney Aaron Goldstein, who is representing Jason Sutherlin. "I know I don't represent white supremacists."

Four of the defense lawyers said they volunteered to represent the five men, even though none of them can afford legal services. Defense attorney Stuart Smith said he agreed to represent Tucker because he is sympathetic to the anti-racist movement.

"I'm doing this for free because it's the right thing to do," he said.

Defense attorney Larry Jackowiak, who is representing Stuck, said his firm took the case because it believes in fighting racism.

"It was an easy decision to make," he said.

On a blog created to support and raise money for legal fees for the five defendants, a post from June 6 encouraged supporters to attend today's court appearance, in part so the men's family members and friends could blend in to a crowd and avoid being targeted by "violent fascists."

The defense attorneys said they were not sure whether family members attended the hearing. About a dozen who attended the hearing appeared to support the men but declined to comment afterward. "I'm here for the five, but they told me I'm supposed to say no comment," said one man.

Ten people were treated after the attack, with at least three needing staples to their heads, police said. In addition to the targets, some customers and employees also were injured.

The Ashford House's owner has previously said he had no idea about the origins of the group that was allegedly targeted. Police said the melee caused about \$15,000 in damage to the restaurant.

### **Anarchist reflections on the Tinley Park incident**

About one month back 15-20 masked antifascists stormed a white supremacist meeting at the Ashford House restaurant in Tinley Park, IL with weapons in hand and not only brought the meeting to an immediate end, but out of the 12 white supremacists in attendance, 10 were injured, many were hospitalized, 2 were arrested and several were DOX'd after the action. 5 of the alleged attackers were also arrested and are currently fighting charges.

Different variations of anti-racist activists from liberal to militant have voiced their opinions of the action (some silently and some not so silently) in terms of the approach and the outcome. The obvious critics saying that " it did nothing for the cause" and even some more militant anti-fascists have raised the question "was it worth it in the end?". The purpose of this article is to critically analyze the approach used by anti-fascists on May 19th in Tinley Park and to show why we see this action (and others alike), although no better than some other tactics at achieving direct goals, as one of the more effective, in terms of the massive long term damage done to fascist organizing and spirit.

Other less dangerous, yet still militant, tactics, like the ones employed at the attack on the MCL cafeteria in Indiana during Irving's 2011 tour, the smoke bombing at the Hitler birthday celebration in Lyons, IL in 2011, or other preemptive attacks on individual organizers, can very well achieve the same immediate end and should typically be seen as the go-to tactics , as they better allow you to remain anonymous and at a more safe reach from the fascists and the state. We must always attempt to minimize injuries on our side as they can be extremely hurtful to the work we are doing. Staying safe is always extremely important but we must be realistic; simply doing this work, at any level, puts us in a precarious and often unsafe position. The danger of fascist organizing or individuals should be taken seriously, but here and there, a genuine show of strength, courage and brute force is necessary. Especially when numbers permit. We can not, and will not, always toss rocks over picket fences at one another. Whether we, as antifascists, can agree on that statement or not, the lasting impact that actions like the battle of York, Baltimore, the battle of Pemberton in 2011, the 2009 campaign against David Irving and In Tinley Park last month, leave in the hearts and minds of the fascists, as well as anti-fascists, is undeniable.

These type of actions do more than simply end an event or meeting. The attack at the Ashford house has driven fear and paranoia into the white supremacists scene, especially those in attendance. It drove potentially talented white supremacists organizers out of commission and set an example of what can happen to any space or business hosting these type of events. Aside from the immense damage it dealt to their side, for us, it was inspirational and sparked a massive interest in militant anti-fascist work. At last, it created a platform for us to express to more mainstream audiences why we believe using direct action to fight against the fascists is

necessary as it forced many non-radical folks to look for answers to the questions that were causing them such cognitive dissonance.

The fear:

Imagine, after months of planning, several anarchists in your area, some you may know and some you may not, sit down at a table in some neutral space to have a discussion. Then, within minutes, you become trapped in a room filled with 20 masked white supremacists wielding weapons and injuring 70% of the attendees at this event. What kind of effect do you think this would have on us? How many people would drop out of "anarchist organizing"? Would folks blame others for the lack of security or even make snitch or informant accusations. Would people feel comfortable to ever go to another event and would the topic at hand be overshadowed, or distracted from, by the immense need for self protection. How would this type of attack differ from say a protest or phone calls to our host space? Had the event been attacked the night before, the host may have pulled the plug, but with some hurdle jumping and a few phone calls could we potentially continue the discussion with at least a portion of the crowd, at some other place, at some other time in the not so distant future? All the tactics mentioned above should not be dismissed, nor should they be considered ineffective, weak or less glamorous, especially the latter, but at the same time, think of the tremendous long lasting damage this type of full frontal assault would have on us and our supporters mentally. The fear, the sense of defeat and the disempowerment.

Since the Ashford attack, the predictable came true; Not only has the finger pointing and snitch jacketing amongst white supremacists began, but the lead organizer has alleged her retirement from her short lived activist career as a direct result of antifa harassment. The discourse taking place amongst a large number of white supremacists on stormfront no longer revolved around offensive organizing of any kind, but were now defensive, and centered around how to deal with us and how to protect themselves, and as long as we do our job right, this pondering should continue.

Setting a precedent:

Aside from the lasting impression on white supremacist individuals, this attack sets a fine example of what type of consequences you can expect from hosting such events. The next time David Irving, or any other white supremacist speaker or organization, reserves a space, simply reminding them of Irving's tour in 2009, in which Edelweiss restaurant was damaged and then sued for a half a million dollars, hotels were barged into, and attendees were stabbed, should be enough to make them think twice. If not, this very incident in Tinley Park, the alleged 15,000 dollars in damages, loss of customers and bad reputation, will surely do the trick. It is just another addition to the list of reasons of why you should not support fascist organizing.

The arrests on our side:

The down side to the Ashford attack was the arrests made. Only so much critique can be laid down here. If those arrested were actually involved, only those who attended know what led them to be arrested and how, if at all, it can have been avoided. However, from the look of things from an outside perspective, the fact that there wasn't a public call to confront the white supremacists yet there were 20 antifas there, the fact that the secret hosting location was discovered and that according to media reports the attack lasted under a minute, it doesn't seem to be a matter of bad planning or lack of pre-emptive thought.

We believe that the outcome, in terms of the arrests, shouldn't necessarily have any difference on the way we view this approach unless we see these arrests as an essential characteristic of such an approach. Had no one got arrested would some of the more militant advocates still hold such criticisms over the tactic used? It is also important to remember that, although it is always our goal to evade capture, our immediate goal as antifascists is to attack fascist organizing and shut down organizations and events, and in that it did.. and then some! If someone feels that in this particular case, the arrests weren't worth the damage done to fascist organizing, they are entitled to that opinion. This opinion may or may not be commonly shared or popular, but it should not necessarily reflect negatively on the approach universally as much as in this particular case.

Clandestine yet visible:

Being anarchist antifascists we recognize that the state and capitalism are just as undesirable as the fascism we fight and that the law actively seeks to render us ineffective, the same way we do to the fascists. That being said, sometimes visions of antifa crews that allow everyone and anyone to participate with no hesitation can be utopian and naive. Depending on a given antifa crews methods, this type of approach can be detrimental. This doesn't mean that anti-fascism should be specialized or left to professionals. The difficulty within ARA and antifa work is just that; we want this war to be inclusive (or at least more visible and less specialized) yet we want it to be secure and impenetrable for those of us who participate. To a certain degree, this action met all standards; a quietly organized group of folks achieved an end, while also reaching out to several thousands of people not already involved in antifa work and said, "Do the damn thing, and this is how!"

If you look close enough, and stop waiting to read public call outs by fascists, you will realize that fascist organizing is happening quite often and generally in secret. If we constantly used the tactic used at Ashford house a great majority of us would likely burn out, or be in jail. It is not that we believe that arrests are unavoidable in this type of approach, but the visibility and large number of people engaging in illegal activity in a single area do make it a little harder to evade capture. Tactics we use should be dependent on the situation. Their numbers, the type of location, the type of group were dealing with and their organizational strategy etc. We should remain inventive and have multiple forms of attack. We should attempt to use tactics that better guarantee we will be around to fight another day

It is absolutely important when you start doing antifascists work to strategize. Analyze what is happening around you and what you think might work best in your situation. But only so much strategy can be developed without action. Spending far too long strategizing, fearing and remaining in a defensive mindset without action will get you nowhere. We must instigate. They hide from us, not the other way around. The best way to further develop your strategy is to create action and document your experience.

Be smart, and be secure, but be fearless fucking tigers.

Mad solidarity to the Tinley Park 5 and all those fighting against the state, capitalism and the fascists!

Their world is shit and our dreams are beautiful!

### **Frequent relocation within the jail**

For unknown reasons, the Tinley Park Five are being relocated within the Cook County Jail quite frequently. Some inmates have been moved as many as seven times over the course of the last month. This is causing delays in their receiving correspondence. Books sent from major publishers seem to be getting to them more efficiently than other articles. Before visiting, please make sure to check the Cook County Jail website for visiting hours and current housing location. Their "profiles" on the Cook County Jail website can be reached by clicking on their names on the letter-writing and visitation pages.

We're unsure of the motivations of these moves. It's possible that they are purely administrative. The gears of the machine that is the Cook County Jail do turn slowly.

It's also possible that these moves are a vain attempt to prevent the political prisoners from organizing and bonding with fellow inmates. A copy of People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn was sent to each of the TP5 soon after their incarceration. One of the defendants reports that his copy of the book has people "lining up" to borrow it. Books and zines which do reach the TP5 are being circulated throughout the jail to inmates of all backgrounds. Contrary to the common image of willfully ignorant career criminals perpetuated by our media, prisoners are hungry for knowledge and education. Unfortunately, our "criminal justice" system places minimal emphasis on education and is slashing prisoner's access to libraries and educational opportunities.

We would like to encourage everyone to continue sending reading materials to the TP5 as well as all prisoners and to consider supporting groups like Books Through Bars and Pages For Prisoners.

## 15 Jun - Camille Marino bail conditions modified, house raided

*Animal liberationist Camille Marino had her first court appearance a couple of weeks ago and one of the results were the conditions of her bail being lightened. This includes the judge ruling that the website she administers can continue to make updates. Dr. Steven Best provides an update below. Five days later, her house was raided and her computers seized.*

### **MORE:**

The proceedings initiated against Camille Marino by the vivisection-university complex got underway in earnest in the 36th District Court in Detroit on June 14, 2012. She appeared for her Probable Cause Hearing on two felony charges, “aggravated stalking” of a vivisector and “posting a message” which caused him to be “terrorized” — each charge carries a 5-year sentence. These proceedings will be continued on July 13th in order to allow the prosecution to prepare for the First Amendment argument. The defense will present a motion to dismiss on Constitutional grounds at that time and then, most likely, a trial date will be set so a jury may try the facts in this case. However, yesterday’s courtroom drama is quite eventful.

It is important to understand that Camille walked into that courtroom fully prepared to have her bond revoked and to go back to jail for standing on principle and not acquiescing or conceding to O’Leary and taking NIO offline. She remained defiant and the conditions of her bond were modified. *NIO will remain online and Camille will remain free.* This is all I can make public at this point. However, having been very close to this situation, I can say with complete confidence that we refused to bow to repression and we came out victorious in this battle. And it feels good!

The morning started out with demonstrators from “Stop Wayne State Dog Experiments” greeting Donal O’Leary as he entered the courthouse with signs bearing his image, home address, and office phone number. Flyers were also distributed to the community with his contact information and details of his crimes against animals. When the protest concluded at 11 am, the demonstrators filed into courtroom 538 to support Camille. However, the judge ordered that, irrespective of their First Amendment rights, no supporters of Camille Marino were allowed in the courtroom. They were summarily ejected and locked out.

But the featured event of the day was when dog-murderer Donal O’Leary took the stand to testify against Camille. He spent well over 2 hours on the stand. These are the highlights:

- Camille’s attorney first had O’Leary’s attorney’s excluded from the courtroom in a brilliant legal maneuver.
- O’Leary read the entire Freddy Kruger snuff fantasy on the stand. At one point the judge reprimanded Camille and warned her to stop grinning through his melodramatic performance.
- When her attorney, Matt Savich, got up to cross examine him, O’Leary became cranky and demanded to be referred to as “Dr.” rather than “Mr.” Savich was adamant that he could not do that because his client did not recognize vivisectors as scientists. When the judge reprimanded him, Matt essentially stated that he agreed with his client and would not address any vivisector as “doctor.” Fortunately, the judge allowed him to proceed after articulating her strong discontent with their position.
- Among the many “threats” that had frightened O’Leary — who’s been torturing dogs since 1986 — was Marino’s wish that his children would be “ostracized in the playground!” Truly terrifying words!
- It was clear that O’Leary is not only not living in fear, but he thinks this is a big game and finds it all quite entertaining. Marino’s supporters who were banned from the courtroom report that the aging vivisector left the courtroom with a smug grin and proceeded to laugh with his minions. Apparently, he thought he gave a good performance.

A “journalist” named Tammy Battaglia with the propaganda rag called the Detroit Free Press was privy to all proceedings and wrote an article entitled, [Animal activist: My threats of dismemberment against researcher were](#)

[just talk](#). Now, for the record, Camille and I both know the identity of “Freddy Kruger,” but will never reveal who it is since doing so would do nothing but cause the actor irreparable harm. But Camille’s commentary on this subject sums it up:

“Tammy Battaglia was in the courtroom yesterday but was, clearly, woefully incapable of following along with the rest of us. So to clarify, Matt stipulated that “Freddy Kruger” left a comment on NIO and that I did, indeed, re-publish it. All parties in this case are clear that I did not write it. Unfortunately, Ms. Battaglia cannot understand the nuance of the obvious distinction so she has chosen to literally put words in my mouth. And we wonder why the Fourth Estate is dead!”

### **June 19<sup>th</sup> - Camille wrote this from her neighbor's house as the cops were raiding her house:**

BREAKING: My house is currently being raided by 20+ FDLE officers. At the moment my house is surrounded by 20 vehicles, marked & unmarked. They are executing a search warrant to seize all computers, laptops, cellphones, back-ups, flash drives, and anything else they want to prove that I am guilty of the "crime" of exposing University of Florida vivisectors. At neighbor's house to get online for a second. Will be mostly offline until I can get new computer. Do not call my cell phone or house until further notice.

### **17 Jun – am I getting jail lite? by Mandy Hiscocks**

*Here’s another couple of blog entries from 2010 Toronto G20 prisoner Mandy Hiscocks.*

#### **MORE:**

in my last blog i wrote about the anger management program i'd just started. well, i slogged through all 5 sessions and while i did learn a few things i have to say that ironically it just made me more angry. after reading the last post someone kindly dug up an article on anger management in prison from The Guardian in 2003 and sent it to me - one paragraph in particular jumped out.

[T]he only controversy there had been around the issue was that voiced by Noam Chomsky, in 1977: “Behaviourist therapy is pretty empty as an intellectual pursuit. . .[but] in schools and prisons. . .it provides a palatable ideology for the application of techniques of coersion.” In other words, this therapy teaches people how to operate in society without causing trouble and, in the interests of so doing, teaches them not to strive for fairness, or justice, not to assume that “the world must be easy.”

bingo. in the class we talked a lot about how it's important to find the underlying source of our anger – is it fear? shame? jealousy? the thing is, the underlying source of my anger is injustice, undeserved authority, power tripping and other such bullshit. this place and this world are full of all that, and i'm not all that interested in doing some self-care to calm down every time i encounter it. on the last day, one of the participants tried to express her frustration that nothing can be done about the things that make her angry in here because there is no recourse for inmates. the facilitator advised us to realize that there are limits to what can be addressed in here, that we need to remember that we're not serving life sentences, and to focus on our goals for getting out. i disagreed. i suggested that sometimes anger can be useful when something is unfair and change needs to be made, and that an attitude of “this won't last forever” sort of ensures that the injustices will. this made her very uncomfortable and the discussion was cut off. “a palatable ideology for the application of techniques of coersion”, indeed. i'm with Noam on this one.

in other news, i had an interesting interaction with a white shirt recently. it happened after a search in which i lost the extra mattress i've had since my pregnant cellie was transferred to medium security. now i sometimes wake up with bruises like everyone else. . .easy come, easy go. also, once again, i was singled out for having too much paper and told to send a bunch of it to property. this time they dumped out an envelope clearly labelled “RECYCLING” all over my bed which was kind of unnecessary since it was sitting beside the door. also beside the door was a property envelope, clearly labelled with my name, inmate number, and the contents and ready to go. this was also dumped out on my bed and the newspaper clipping were taken out of it and thrown out. also

tossed out were some newspaper articles about the G20 Investigative Report findings that i had just received in the mail and hadn't read yet. which means, presumably, that any news articles that pass the censor guard are still considered contraband if you happen to be searched. so while they are in your possession, despite them having been handed to you by a guard, they are illegal. and not only that but if you haven't filled your property envelope and handed it in by search day, everything on newsprint heading to property (where it is supposed to go according to The Rules) is ALSO contraband. so i guess each article or news clipping shall now have it's own property envelope? oh but wait. . .there's only so much space in storage, so that would also be wrong. i love how much the (lack of actual) rules and procedures make sense, don't you?

anyway, despite that very minor fuckery, i did notice that the carnage in my cell was minimal and it didn't look like anyone had even gone into the property box at all. i asked the white shirt on duty about the newspapers, we argued for awhile, and finally she said "look, they're not going to mess about with your stuff. i know they are being very careful with you because you are monitoring." this echoed something i was told by another inmate once, we were talking about some of the really shitty things she'd experienced and seen in this place (violence from guards, long and unwarranted stints in the hole and so on) and i remarked that since i've been here there's been very little of that. she replied "well the guards aren't going to play on this range with you here." as i see it, if these statements are true, it means a couple of things:

1. perhaps my experience is not representative of most people. am i getting jail-lite? it's something to keep in mind from now on as you read this blog.
2. apparently, the key to being treated somewhat decently is to make your jail experience as public as possible. perhaps this can help others on the range too. i was worried it would make me a target but it would appear the opposite is happening. so the more people who speak out the better.

on the topic of prisoners speaking out, my most exciting project at the moment is the special summer issue of The Peak magazine. this one is going to be all about ontario prisons, with a significant amount of the content coming from past or current inmates. it feels really good to be able to help out with a project that's being coordinated on the outside – these kinds of projects help to make this sentence feel productive and therefore bearable. check out the [call out](#). if you're good at spelling and spotting typos and have a bit of time to spare after june 25, The Peak could really use your help :) there is a Peak work party on wed. june 20th - please attend and help if you can.

finally, in terms of G20 legal developments, the next month will be a mixed bag. Alex will be sentenced on june 26, two years to the day after our arrest. Of all the G20 main Conspiracy group, Alex is the one the state took the most pleasure in fucking over. he expects to serve about nine months, so please show your support. shortly after Alex goes in and in less than one month now Leah gets out, which is really good news for the community. one more excellent organizer back to work! the jail has kept us apart the entire time we've been here, which i take as a compliment, but i'll still miss catching glimpses of her over on 2A and waving illegally (waves and smiles are very dangerous).

### **and now, to answer the big question...**

today i need to start with an apology for how behind i've gotten in replying to my mail. i've been putting a lot of time and energy into The Peak's upcoming special issue on Ontario prisons. i've also, quite frankly, been feeling a bit lazy these past few weeks. it seems that all i really want to do is read and watch the European Cup. but all excuses aside, the mail situation is quite simply overwhelming – even at my most productive it's impossible to keep up. i'm so sorry if you've written me and haven't heard back yet. please don't think i don't appreciate your letters – i do! as always, if you're wondering whether or not i've received your mail and/or if i've written to you send an email to [mandyjailmail@gmail.com](mailto:mandyjailmail@gmail.com). i know that at least two things were withheld recently; a book and a magazine on may 30. i received a note saying they were sent directly to my property but no other information. also on june 19 i got notices that three letters received on june 11 were withheld but no reason was given. i've requested in the past to be given the sender's name and address and a reason when mail is withheld but i've never

heard back – it's quite amazing how many of my request forms vanish into thin air here, it's almost like they don't give a shit or something! anyway, thank you to whoever you are. i'll get the stuff in december.

and now, to answer the big question . . .

“what's the food like?”

everyone wants to know. it's by far the most common question people ask me after “how are you?” and “do you need anything?” - i find this fascinating because i don't care much at all about how food tastes as long as it fills me up. which is good in this place because there's always way more than enough, and i hear a lot of complaints from other inmates, usually along the lines of “what the fuck is this? i'm not eating this shit.” because i'm not picky and i'm on the vegan diet, i 'm not in a very good position to assess what the majority of the people here eat. but i can tell you what it is, how the food is prepared and distributed, and what meal times are like.

food is always highly anticipated – it breaks up the day and gives people something to do. meals rotate through a four week long cycle and the menu is posted on the wall. dinners are always hot and involved some sort of meat and rice/potatoes/pasta with a side of vegetables and some bread. there's also fruit and/or a treat like a donut, cookie, muffin or sticky bun. breakfasts and lunches alternate hot and cold, so if it was a hot breakfast (sausage and eggs, omelet and potatoes, or pancakes) it'll be a cold lunch and if it was a cold breakfast (cereal and bread, bagel and cream cheese) lunch will be hot. hot lunches are often as big as the dinners which makes for a lot of food in one day and often it's very similar food – for example today we had macaroni cheese for lunch and pasta for dinner. there also tend to be some strange combinations such as lasagna on rice. cold lunches are various kinds of meat, or egg with various kinds of bread, fruit and rice/pasta/beans/veggies/potato salad. on mondays both the breakfast and the lunch are cold so it's referred to as “starvation day”, which is preposterous, as the food is so carb heavy and there is so little structured opportunity to exercise that most people gain weight here.

as far as i can tell the food much be pretty nutritious, because despite the very limited fresh air i feel quite healthy. of course, that could have a lot to do with having lots of time for sleep and exercise and nothing much to stress about, and the fact that i don't buy much junk food off canteen. still, i imagine that three meals at the same time everyday is a good way to eat, even if the timing is odd: 8:15 and 11:15am and 4:15 pm. the institution takes food needs very seriously too – we see a nurse upon arrival and she takes down our allergies and dietary requirements. special diets are available for medical, religious or lifestyle reasons. some diets on the range right now are diabetic, gluten free, no bean, no fish, vegetarian, and kosher. there are some limits: i heard of someone a few years ago asking for a vegan gluten free diet, and she was told that was beyond their capabilities and she'd have to choose one or the other. it's helpful to think through your diet options before you get to jail, because it can be hard to change it during your stay. for that you have to get permission from a doctor and they don't always grant it. and for those of you who may end up here one day and would be interested in the vegan diet, know that it is very heavy on the soy: fake cold-cuts, fake sausages, veggie burgers, tofu, fake cheese, and every meal comes with a package of powdered soy milk. on the upside, it seems to cause less gas. . .because folks so many people here have gas it's a foul thing let me tell you. it must be something to do with the animal products or the lack of exercise but there are serious digestive tract issues in this institution. an unusual number of people don't shit regularly and the nurses seem to give out an awful lot of laxatives and stool softeners. i am fine so far, but i've still suffered, believe me – the cells are small and the farts stink, the windows don't open and nighttime lockup is twelve and a half hours long. and THAT, friends, is why you should never break the law!

i'm sorry. was that too much information? let's move on.

the meals come in trays divided into three compartments. cold trays are brown for regular meals and blue for diets, and are assembled at CookChill, a separate building on the grounds of the Maplehurst Correctional Complex. cold trays are assembled by the men from Maplehurst next door. blue trays get labelled with the date to be eaten, inmate name, and diet type. one blue tray has a message written into it calling someone out for

being a “snitch for 31 division.” the hot trays are a weird translucent brown and they are assembled by those sentenced to medium security women at vanier (those on Unit 3). frozen food is scooped on the trays in an assembly line system and stored. some are shipped off to other institutions. before we eat them they are steamed, everything all together in the same tray. miraculously this seems to work. although the veggies are sometimes overcooked and mushy.

at meal times the trays are brought on the unit on a cart and parked outside while the guards make sure they're all there. usually by this time we are getting restless, stomachs are growling, we are fully institutionalized, conditioned to the schedule. some people are already scoping out the trading possibilities, cementing deal before the rush. new rivals try to sit at tables and are kicked out of taken seats, over and over again, sometimes nicely and sometimes not. the seating plan at the eight 4-chair tables is inflexible and political, much like a high school cafeteria. at some point the door opens, the cart comes in, and the guard hollers at us to “line up! diets up front.” we get our tray(s) and a plastic spoon from the guard or a range worker, go to our table, see what's what, and within minutes it's like a huge game of Settlers of Catan.

“juice for milk!”

“anyone got creamers? sugar for creamers!”

“i need peanut butter!!!”

“rice cakes for peanut butter?” “here.” “no, i WANT peanut butter. . .”

“anyone got coffee? I'll pay you back tomorrow.”

and so on and so forth. people even trade in futures a risky business on this unit because you never know when someone will be moved to unit 3 or 4. my trades are limited to sugar for creamers so i don't have to use gross chunky soy milk in my tea and coffee, peanut butter for rice cakes, and peanut butter for the sweet treats that vegans don't get (hey, i never said i was a GOOD vegan). in trades anything goes, but the golden rule of trading/giving food away is table first. when the fury of trading settles we get hot water for tea or coffee, eat, offer any untouched leftovers around, scrape the rest into the garbage, stack the trays on the counter and rinse off the spoon. at some random moment (perhaps we've all been done eating for quite some time, perhaps some people aren't finished yet) the guard yells “spoons up!” and we return them, giving our cell number and name so it can be crossed off the list because a missing spoon is A BIG DEAL. this can be tricky for new people who sometimes throw their spoons in the garbage and then have to fish them out (a lot of people on the range find this funny – almost as funny as when they get stuck in their cells because they don't know the doors lock automatically. it's hard to be new). as we all head to our cells for quiet time (yes, like kindergarten) or chores if it's morning the range workers count the trays. a missing tray is also a big deal. on one memorable occasion a guard decided that one lid was missing and searched all sixteen cells before realizing he must have miscounted. smooth. it's unclear why plastic trays and spoons are such a big deal – if they were really worried about us hurting each other presumably we couldn't be locked on a small concrete unlivable space with a stranger for hours on end.

anyway, suffice it to say that meal times are a ruckus, so i actually enjoy eating in my cell sometimes when we're locked down. it's quiet, there is no rush, i can sit and read the paper over tea or coffee afterwards. the only drawback is that during lockdown we eat in the same small space that houses the toilet. but you cant have everything, right?

because of the early dinners and long night time lock up, snacking is crucial. we save food throughout the day to eat in the evening – fruit, desserts, bread, rice cakes, peanut butter and jam. snacks are available to buy off of canteen too – mostly junk food like chips, chocolate bars and candy but also Mister Noodles, peperoni sticks, cookies, cereal, crackers and granola bars. i don't bother much with canteen food unless it's a celebration, but i do like to snack, so as i write this in my cell i have: an orange, an apple, four rice cakes, a muffin, two peanut butters, two jams and three packs of soda crackers. my favourite snack these days is one a cellie introduced me to months ago: rice-cakes with peanut butter, jam and sliced banana. delicious! i eat that at least once a week because every friday we get a banana with lunch and sometimes, if we're lucky, vegan get another one at dinner or with saturday's lunch.

having food in the cell can lead to some awkward moments. for example, twice since i've been here two different cellies have stolen my food while i've been sleeping and then denied it in the morning (!) even though once i got up to pee and saw her eating it and the second time the tell-tale cracker packages were in her bed. the denials were curious, after all it was just the two of us locked in the cell. . .who else could it have been!? i didn't really care about the food, and had they asked i would have given it to them. other times, however, there just hasn't been enough food to share or i just didn't want to. in a tiny cell there's really no way to be discreet about snacking, and it can be pretty uncomfortable to eat in front of someone who has nothing (or nothing as good as what you have, anyway). at the same time it's hard to feel responsible for people who lack foresight, and it's very important to avoid being taken advantage of in this place.

storing food can be tenuous, because technically we're not supposed to keep much (or any?) in our cells. this isn't necessarily a pointless rule because a lot few the ground floor cells have an ant problem – i'm on the second floor though and so far so good. anyway because of this rule, when the dreaded searches happen some guards will throw it out. and then all the carefully traded goods the bread and rice cakes lovingly packed away into chip bags (for freshness), the sticky bun you traded your last two precious peanut butters for. . .all is wasted and you have to start all over again. luckily there is far more food than it's possible to eat at any given meal so it doesn't take long to stock back up.

during every meal leftovers get offered around the range before being tossed in the garbage. because we eat out of pre-packaged one-size-fits-all trays instead of buffet style where we could take the amount of food we actually need, and because the trays are apparently assembled in a way that doesn't differentiate between male and female inmates, a shameful amount of food gets wasted everyday despite our best efforts to trade it or give it away. this is difficult for me, having been raised to eat everything on my plate, but i've made an uneasy peace with it. at first i tried to eat everything but that's unsustainable – it's just too much - i hear it's 3800 calories a day. the doctor told me he keeps telling the institution to stop over-feeding us, but it seems they don't even listen to him. the worst thing is the amount of bread – two and sometimes three unnecessary slices at every meal. over the course of one week in may i asked everyone to put their leftover bread on the counter instead of in the garbage and then i counted the slices. the tally over those seven days (21 meals) was 288 TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHT-EIGHT! just on this one range, which at any given time had a maximum of 30 people in it. vanier can hold 125 people, so the mind boggles at the total amount of wasted bread we must produce here. there is something so disgusting about this, so completely unacceptable, because unlike so many other terrible problems with this institution this one wouldn't be complicated to fix. bring in a few bags of bread at every meal and let people take some if they need it. done.

okay, moving on from the environmentally and politically sketchy issue of over consumption and waste. . .let's talk for a moment about how eating in jail can be just plain weird. for one thing, there are no knives or forks, so it doesn't matter what you're eating – veggie patties, the excellent vegan lasagna, CABBAGE ROLLS – you're eating it with a spoon. you spread peanut butter and jam with your finger, you slice bananas with the jail toothpaste container, which also comes in handy to peel oranges. milk and juice come in clear plastic bags that you tear into with your teeth. it's a bit like camping! oh, and some guards take the powdered soy milk package out of the tray and mix it for you, because saving it for later is not allowed- it's considered contraband. apparently, you can make a cement-like substance out of it and use it as a weapon. . .not sure if i believe that. . .but who knows? it's as plausible as stabbing someone in the eye with a plastic fork i suppose.

and what about the coffee? crucial, crucial coffee. there are three important things to know:

1. apparently, the pouch of powdered jailhouse stuff we get in our breakfast trays every morning is not caffeinated HOWEVER you can buy pouches of Maxwell House instant coffee off of canteen that is. if you drink more than one coffee a day you have to buy extra because the free stuff only comes with breakfast.

2. paper cups are only handed out with breakfast and have to be reused throughout the day. if you lose it you don't get another.

3.coffee is only available at meal times, when a hot water jug is brought onto the range. some people do drink coffee and tea during the day made with hot water from the tap, but it really doesn't get that hot so it's not very pleasant. i tried it once – it was my cellies' last night and she was so excited she couldn't sleep. she asked me to stay up late and party with her (and by “party” i mean share a bag of chips and a chocolate bar and play Scrabble). that was an exceptional circumstance. generally speaking it's not like we have any important meetings to be alert for or things we have to stay up late working on, or even a quiet place to go in the middle of the day to enjoy a nice peaceful cup of coffee. so not having it readily available isn't as much of a hardship as you might think. if you're a coffee snob you're in big trouble though! you might want to get over that if you think you might be spending time in jail someday.

i've been experimenting with lattes recently, on the days when i don't need the soy milk powder for cereal. the best recipe so far is half the soy powder, one Maxwell House, half a jail-house coffee, one “creamer” (these are actually that chemical coffee whitener powder stuff) and one sugar. it's quite possibly disgusting – i can't always tell anymore – but i like it. maybe just because it's something different a couple times a week. it's less weird than some of the things that people mix in here, for example lemonade juice crystals in tea.

which brings me to juice crystals. people eat these out of the package, like candy and you can actually make jail candy out of them by adding a bunch of creamers and a little bit of water or butter and letting it harden. other common treats (usually for birthdays) are rice crispy squares off of canteen with a melted arrow bar (also off canteen) mixed with peanut butter as icing, or sticky buns iced with a mixture of cream cheese and jam. often these “cakes” are decorated with canteen candy (jelly beans, jujubes, nibs, licorice all-sorts). it's really quite industrious in here at times.

so to sum up: the food is pretty bland and basic, people complain about it quite a bit, there are no options, there's a disturbing amount of waste and the utensil is not always appropriate. the fact remains that we get three filling and mostly healthy meals a day – and that in itself is better than what a lot of people can look forward to when they get out. i'll never forget the morning a homeless woman was being released back onto the streets and we all scrambled to put together a care package. how sad is that? having to rely on maximum security inmates for your next meal, knowing that for you freedom means hunger. what the fuck kind of world do we live in!?

### **18 Jun – Update on Cleveland Five**

*While we'll be talking about the Cleveland Five tonight, we've also included an update below as well as letter from two of the five—Connor Stevens and Brandon Baxter.*

#### **MORE:**

After almost two months of imprisonment, repression and an intense campaign of media demonization, the Cleveland five remain strong and solid in their refusal to cooperate with the FBI.

They also remain in desperate need of our support. They are getting very little contact from the outside world and four of the five defendants are being represented by public defenders. Although right now these four say they are happy with their lawyers, they also have no access to the funds necessary to offer them the legal options they so desperately need right now. We all know that “justice” basically means how much money you have.

Their support crew has been working hard to hustle the funds necessary to hire a lawyer for Connor, the defendant who was most unhappy with his legal representation. The lawyer, who is taking on the case at a reduced cost, also plans to hire an investigative team to work on the case. As of now, initial legal costs exceed \$30,000 and are expected to be much more than that.

Even though these costs are huge and may seem insurmountable, the future of the five is riding on the efforts of small autonomous groups of people contributing to the struggle for their freedom. There will be no knights in shining armor in this case, just us and the support we are able to muster.

The five also need encouragement, expressions of solidarity with their refusal to cooperate, and letters of support. So far, responses along these lines have been disappointing. It's not news that the five are mostly inexperienced and are not well known within our networks of affinity. And it's possible that this is why they were targeted. But we cannot let these be the reasons we do not support them. They may not be a friend of a friend, maybe no one you know can vouch for them, but so far they have stood up to the State with courage and integrity—one of them, Connor, has even gone on hunger strike to protest the conditions of his imprisonment—and it's time they get some unambiguous expressions of solidarity in return.

We know the risks of not supporting fringe anarchists in moments of intense repression—when people feel alone they are more likely to snitch or to look to reactionary belief systems for solace. While they are remaining uncooperative with the government at this point, the future is very uncertain if they do not get more support than they are getting.

Please see the legal update and the individual updates below and take a minute to send a book or a zine or to drop a line on these comrades.

Legal update:

The five are being charged with “Use or Attempted Use of Explosive Materials” and “Conspiracy.”

They have been incarcerated since May 1st and four of them are being held in a private prison in Youngstown, Ohio. The fifth, Doug Wright, is being held at the county jail in Trumbull County in Warren, Ohio.

On June 15th, a “motion for detention” was signed by the judge in the case, preventing supporters from bonding them out before trial.

The judge in their case seems to be tough and unsympathetic and is refusing requests for continuance by the lawyers. Although they have not had nearly enough time to prepare an adequate defense, the judge continues to insist that the trial will begin in early September. Although it is extremely unlikely to happen, it demonstrates the added pressure the five and their lawyers are under.

As of now, Connor, Brandon, Anthony and Josh are being held at a private prison in Youngstown, Ohio called the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center <http://www.NOCC.com/facility/northeast-ohio-correctional-center/>, run by the Corrections Corporation of America. Doug is currently being held the Trumbull County Jail [http://www.co.trumbull.oh.us/tc\\_sheriff.html](http://www.co.trumbull.oh.us/tc_sheriff.html) in Warren, Ohio.

The four being held at NOCC are in solitary confinement (23 hours of lock down a day with one hour of “recreation” in a small outdoor cage), can make phone calls only once every fifteen days and are permitted one legal call per day. Despite these rules, no one has been consistently able to make calls as their requests are repeatedly ignored. They are allowed two visits per week, but they are only twenty minutes long and visitors have to check in by 7am.

Individual updates:

Brandon is incarcerated at NOCC where he is cell mates with his co-defendant Tony. Because the two are together, they seem to be doing well emotionally. He is in need of a decent legal dictionary, any criminal defense books, and would like to be sent news articles that are being printed about the five. He's spending time documenting the case and doing legal research as much as possible given the restrictions. He really wants letters and visitors.

Tony is doing well emotionally and wants letters and visits. He is cellmates with Brandon at NOCC. He is working hard doing research to prepare for his case and has really offered a lot of emotional support to Brandon and Connor, helping them stay strong.

Josh's situation is potentially the most urgent. He is having a very hard time mentally and emotionally and is getting very little support or outside contact. He is also, for unknown reasons, not allowed to have any contact whatsoever with the other three comrades at NOCC. He has a history of mental health issues that have already been made public in the case, and which are not be effectively addressed by his captors. He is not getting adequate nutrition, is losing weight and feels constantly hungry. He usually does not take the hour of rec. available to him because he is too physically weak. He is in urgent need of support and letters.

Connor is in high spirits and is looking forward to working with the new lawyer. He continues to be frustrated with the limitations of visitation and phone use and, sometime in June, went on hunger strike to protest these conditions. He is clear in his commitment to not cooperating with the government. He is also incarcerated at NOCC where he can sometimes have contact with Brandon and Tony.

Doug is being held at Trumbull County Jail in Warren, Ohio where his lawyer requested he be transferred in hopes of improving his conditions. Like Josh, he is totally disconnected from any contact with his co-defendants and feels very isolated. His lawyer has been urging him to take a plea, but so far he's remaining strong. He's getting very little support or outside contact and has no support from his family. He is usually out of touch because of the conditions of his incarceration and lack of support and usually has no idea what's going on about the case, when court dates are, etc. He is also suffering from lack of sufficient food and is also dealing with harassment from guards.

A note on security: As we know, all our letters to these comrades will be read, photocopied, and maybe even mailed to the FBI field office in our city. Therefore, we should be aware of what we write, the address we write from, and the name we use. Please, do not mention the facts of the case, anything at all illegal, or anything you do not want the FBI to know. Please write to them simply to show them they are not alone, and that you are thinking about them. Send them an article you think they might like, or a poem, picture, drawing, etc. We should know the risks, but not let them deter us from supporting our friends.

#### Donations to Legal Fund

If you would like to make donations via check or money order, please make the check out to Conveyor Belt Collective, who is handling our donations.

Send checks to:  
Cleveland 5 Justice  
Post Office Box 602117  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Please separate any donations over \$3000 into multiple contributions.

Your identity will be kept confidential unless you would prefer otherwise. Thanks so much, your help is greatly appreciated!

#### **Lawyer Needed!**

We are friends and family members of the "Cleveland 5," the five guys here who are on trial, accused of trying to demolish an area bridge. We are working to support these young activists, in whatever ways they need. Thus far, what stands out as the most pivotal thing is that the boys need a good lawyer, who cares about the case, has relevant experience and goes the extra mile for it. As it stands, they're all being represented by public defenders, with varying degrees of apparent interest in the case. We have been in communication with a local attorney with an inspiring record of civil rights work, but to hire him, we need to raise \$20,000 immediately.

We're not going to lie -- this is a desperate situation. The trial date is set for this September, only three months from now. This time frame will make building the case (reviewing evidence, making investigations, filing motions) incredibly challenging. The deadline for filing motions for their trial is June 30th, we need a lawyer, and investigative team working around the clock. Every day that we're not able to hire a lawyer is a day closer to that deadline. These boys entire future hinges on what happens right now. Worse yet, they are being held in

solitary confinement, which aside from being brutal treatment in itself, also means that they are severely limited in how much they can speak with their lawyers and supporters -- less than one hour a day. Quick action is essential. We are all putting our personal savings on the line, and we ask that you help us support these guys by chipping in as well.

Any amount is helpful. If you don't have money to contribute, get in touch with us at [cleveland5justice@gmail.com](mailto:cleveland5justice@gmail.com) to discuss other ways you can help support the five.

Some background on the case: our friends are being tried for charges that hold a maximum sentence of several lifetimes. The government is making a case in the media that these are dangerous anarchists, a word they equate with terrorist. However, many journalists have questioned the nature of the government's investigation, suggesting that the FBI might be instigating actions, which they rope people into, rather than "catching people in the act." We want to see our friends and family members go free, and believe that it is criminal for the the government to take them away from us, to use them as tools in their political theater.

### **Letter From Connor Stevens**

One who, in the days of April, enjoyed such simple Freedoms as sitting by a Flowing stream of water, smiling in the sun, or relaxing under a bridge with a friend under a bridge in Cleveland, drinking a beer, now, in May, has been thrown in solitary confinement. Here, in solitary confinement, I have never felt more connected to the People, whom I Love and am willing to lay down my life for.

As we band together, talk, debate, and organize, we are already moving closer to the world we are struggling to create. Who among us has not has the strong impression that this is but a dream, that these days and nights since April 30<sup>th</sup> are not but a nightmare? Yet who can deny that this dark dream that has been case, not upon the May Day 5, but upon our whole community, and indeed the world, has not been pierced by overwhelming rays of Love, of solidarity, of strength – in this warmth I do not require “hope” because here and now I am witness to and participant of the timeless Power of the People.

A Brother wrote me, saying, “I feel they have taken my Freedom with yours.” And this is why we struggle – the fascists (federal government and corporations) have not merely imprisoned the May Day 5. The have, in effect, declared war on any life, which even questions, their hegemony. This is not the first case of this nature, nor will it be the last. As they accumulate their watch lists, tap phones, dispatch informants, rip apart families, friends, lovers, passing even more (unnecessary) legislation (NDAA for fiscal year 2012) in preparation for martial law, we must never forget we the people are infinitely more wise, more beautiful, more passionate, and more Powerful. When we fight, we do so in defense of all life, here and to come. The journey before us will be arduous, but we have run out of alternatives: if we chose life, we can no longer remain spectators and consumers. So, my great big glorious family, let is jump up and live again! Let us chose life!

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE, IN ARMS,

From a Love that can only be expressed in action, your brother, comrade, Connor C. Stevens.

### **A Message From the Belly of the Beast**

Thank you everyone for your support and solidarity. Your contributions to our commisary fund and our legal fund are very much appreciated. Without your donations I wouldnt have been able to afford the paper I wrote this "thank you" on, or the postage to send it back home! your contributions have made it possible for me and my comrades to communicate with our friends, family, lawyers, support group, and a couple of publishers to request literature. I've also been buying coffee so I can stay up all night doing legal work, going through OVER 60 HOURS of FBI transcripts. I've also bought some hygiene items so I don't stink out my cellmate. The state is providing our court appointed legal team with very limited funds to do research, hire experts, print transcripts- the logistics of the entire defense, more or less. So your contributions to our legal fund may very well make the difference in us obtaining our freedom or spending our lives within the confines of the prison industrial complex. You are forever within our hearts.

Forever in Love and Solidarity,  
Brandon "Scavil" Baxter

## **My boys, The Cleveland 5**

This rant I hope you're about to read is an amalgamation of strong emotions and revelations regarding my comrades, the Cleveland 5, since this nightmare started. I would like to start by dispelling any misunderstandings folks may have of the boys. I call them boys because I'm quite a bit older than most of them. Except for Tony, most feel like sons to me. I never had the pleasure of meeting Tony but my entire family knows him well and vouches for him. Tony was going to fix my roof this summer. Tony, I'm going to just keep jamming old shirts in that hole in the roof. It will be waiting for you when you get out. Hurry.

These boys are not the college educated anti-authoritarian types I'm guessing make up the fantastic groups like ALF, ELF, or what have you. They are not the highly organized ones who have carried out actions that have dumb founded the authorities for years. These boys aren't editing any zines. The boys were raised by working class folks with all the hardship that entails. Many came to meet through Occupy, being exposed to new people, ideas, and sharing their own beliefs. They are the gritty Anarchists. They are my comrades. I'm with them until the end. Period. No exceptions.

My son met Doug at Occupy. Both volunteered and had their responsibilities. Doug would many times stay up late and help my son. They became friends. Doug told my wife he thought of Gus as a younger brother and that he had his back. And he did. In my letters to you, Doug, I refer to you as son. And I mean it.

Skelly, you came to my house once to help my son with his bike. I know you mostly through photos and stories. Stories of your reputation to drop everything and help someone in need. My favorite story is the one where you were walking to an event and were jumped by two men. You single handedly fought off your attackers and continued on to your event. Black eye and all. Word is Skelly that you are not doing well in jail. I have no idea what you are going through. We need to get you help.

Connor, the poem writing, giggling young man who is apparently giving beards a bad name. You are an extremely talented young writer. Thank you for agreeing to attempt to write an ABC of Anarcho Primitivism with me. Though it now looks like it will be more of a Letters from Prison with a little Black and Green swirled in for good measure. It will be an entertaining read if nothing else. I will always be amazed about the time you giggled through an entire plate of salad greens. I can see giggling through a carrot or a radish. But an entire salad!? Love.

Brandon, I've known you the longest. I remember the first time I met you. Walking into my kitchen and seeing this giant, shirtless young man sweating all over my counter top. You immediately shook my hand and engaged me thoughtful and enlightened conversation. Brandon, you always ate my experimental casseroles without complaint. And even had seconds. You're wonderfully extraverted, energetic, and it's an honor to call you comrade.

Brandon, I also want to take a moment to apologize to you. I have a lot of guilt. I'm not sure of the dates but there was that period of time where I was mad at you for a reason that seems quite silly now. I pushed you away and had nothing to do with you. I know now the FBI was pulling that Security Culture in reverse shit on you, but I feel that if I would have stayed in contact with you instead of pushing you away, I could have maybe picked up on something not being right. I'm so incredibly sad and angry all the time now. Please forgive me, Brandon. You're a good boy. You don't deserve this shit. Leftovers in the fridge.

I strongly advise folks reading this to think hard if they know of anyone who has recently drifted away. Anyone they have lost contact with who falls into the same category of these boys. If so, touch base with them. See how they're doing. How are they financially? See if they have made any new friends. And without being too intrusive, maybe just inform them of the thousands of provocateurs out there. That if someone pushy comes along promising them something that is too good to be true, advise them to just walk away.

The FBI and other agencies are actively entrapping the gritty ones (for now). And they are good at it. The FBI has to legitimize an 8 billion dollar a year budget. When Occupy was in full swing it was reported that the FBI sent out roughly 15,000 agents to infiltrate. There will be more Cleveland 5's .

The State is pushing hard and fast. They will not stop. The world is quickly running out of resources and we are witnessing the final feeding frenzy of what's left of it. Anyone or any group that is perceived as a threat to profit and or privilege will be prosecuted as a terrorist. Guaranteed.

My boys were entrapped to send a message. They were entrapped to further an agenda. That agenda includes the Final Empire's last desperate grab of what is left of planet earth.

What do we do now? What do I do now? All I want to do is scream. Scream for my boys. Scream for vengeance.

### **18 Jun - Eight Occupy Wall Street members guilty of trespass**

*Eight Occupy Wall Street members were convicted on June 18<sup>th</sup> of criminal trespass for breaking into a fenced-in private lot last December during a protest. The protesters scaled an eight-foot fence and entered a plaza known as Duarte Square that is owned by Trinity Church, one of lower Manhattan's largest land-owners. We've also included updates on Mark Adams, sentenced to 45 days and to whom we are sending a card tonight.*

#### **MORE:**

<from corporate media>

The one-week trial in Manhattan Criminal Court pitted the church, once a strong ally of the movement, against Occupy supporters, who pressured church leaders not to cooperate with the prosecution.

Through its protests, which spread across the country, Occupy Wall Street started a national conversation on economic inequality last fall. But the movement has struggled to maintain its viability after police cleared most of its encampments in various cities.

In the trial before Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Matthew Sciarrino, one defendant, Mark Adams, was also convicted of trying to slice through the fence's locks with bolt-cutters.

Sciarrino sentenced him to 45 days, more than the 30 days that prosecutors had been seeking; he did not offer an explanation.

The other seven defendants received four days of community service.

"I'm not shocked, but I'm disappointed that the court felt private property interests trumped our clients' good-faith defenses," said Gideon Oliver Orion, one of four defense lawyers.

In finding the protesters guilty, Sciarrino said property rights are as important as freedom of speech.

"This was a forceful taking, an invasion, an occupation, pure and simple," he said.

The incident occurred on December 17, a month after a police raid disbanded the Occupy encampment at Zuccotti Park, about a mile from the square.

In a statement, Erin Duggan, a spokeswoman for the Manhattan District Attorney's office, said the office "greatly respects the First Amendment right of citizens to protest" but that its exercise must not violate the law.

There have been more than 2,250 Occupy-related arrests since September, Duggan said. Approximately two-thirds of those have ended in non-criminal dispositions, mostly through conditional dismissals.

#### **Mark Adams begins hunger strike**

Yesterday, Trinity Wall Street "Church," the NYPD and the State of New York sentenced me to forty five days in jail for my political beliefs and actions. This decision by Judge Sciarrino was in response to the alleged actions of my comrades and I on D17, i.e., December 17, 2011.

On that day, my intention was to facilitate the on-going efforts to convince Trinity Church that our use of the space was consistent with their principles and mission. I wanted the unused and deserted lot to the community within Occupy Wall Street and beyond, so that through collective grassroots effort we would build an alternative

society built on mutual aid, solidarity and anti-oppression.

For those intentions, I am now serving a forty-five day sentence on Riker's Island. In response I have taken my protest out of the streets and into the jails. As of 2pm June 18, 2012, drawing inspiration from Jack, Diego, Malory and Shae as well as numerous prisoners and activists worldwide, I have been on a hunger strike. I will continue the hunger strike until I am released, to draw attention to the political nature of my arrest, sentencing and the greater themes and goals of the occupy wall street movement. This punishment has further strengthened my resolve to build a society, alongside my comrades, that does not further the corporate agenda of the prison industrial complex, compassion for all, community, solidarity, and mutual aid for all. Everything for everybody.

With solidarity and Rage,

Mark Adams, Occupy Wall Street

### **June 25<sup>th</sup> – A visit with Mark Adams**

This morning 3 of us met to take the bus to Rikers, around the crack of dawn.

Austin came with us, but was denied entry. He had multiple forms of ID, but his photo ID was expired and he was turned away. Lesson learned. For Mark, we brought envelopes, paper, 3 books and some radical zines, the last of which we were told to mail because they are not books. We're thinking about binding them into a book.

It was a long, tedious security process to get to the visiting room; we had to take our shoes off three times. Seeing Mark walk in made that completely worthwhile. We hugged and we all cried. Mark was happy to see visitors; he had not been aware that he only gets 2 visits a week and wondered why no one was there on Friday. He has also been getting visits from our legal worker community.

Mark is definitely feeling depressed and withdrawn. He feels like he can't be himself there—that he left his outgoing, bouncy self on the outside. Mark cheered up significantly halfway through our visit, started feeding on our energy and even laughing at our lame jokes. Daniele told him about her experience with The People's Puppet and Rude Mechanical Orchestra at the Mermaid Parade. The Coney Island crowd has cheered in solidarity with the Occupy Wall St banner, and that seemed to lift his spirits a lot. Letters also seem to really make him happy; he told us about receiving some from people all over the country, including Oklahoma, and from people he hasn't met, and drawings by children.

He doesn't feel up to writing back but wants everyone to know he appreciates the letters and knowing that people are thinking of him. He mentioned the freedom party we threw for him right before he had to go. He spoke really fondly of seeing everyone, and of dancing to Britney Spears, the Backstreet Boys and Miley Cyrus. He said that he thinks about that night many times a day, this happy memory he returns to. We hope to have another party to welcome him out.

Mark discussed the doctors he's seeing and life in Rikers. He has seen violence (especially in the hot weather) but inmates and COs leave him alone. He mostly hangs out and reads. Some of the doctors have been sympathetic, and Mark has been using his regular visits with them (due to his hunger strike) to talk to them about his politics and the reason he's in jail.

We spoke about his hunger strike, and he seems committed to it, but not at the expense of his long term well being. He joked that he is having an easy time keeping up with his Veganism. He is drinking liquids, and Miriam discussed the health risks of what he's doing with him.

On the last (first) visit Mark said he couldn't believe how the community was organizing to support him. How much love and solidarity there is. He called us his family, not his friends, and sent his love.

Keep the letters coming! You can also send him books; true to the caring personality we know and love, he's been sharing them with the other inmates.

## 20 Jun – Updates on NATO 3 indictments

*Lawyers representing three individuals who came to Chicago in May to protest at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit and who were indicted just over a week ago on terrorism-related charges have obtained a copy of the indictments. We've included two relevant, if not similar, articles below.*

### **MORE:**

The lawyers from the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) had expected to see official indictments when the three were formally indicted in court, but prosecutors declined to provide a copy of the indictment to the defense, a decision the judge presiding over the hearing [called](#) “a little strange.”

The judge had the power to compel state prosecutors to hand over the indictment to the defense, but did not make such an order. The judge instead made it clear the prosecutors had to provide the indictment to the defense by July 2, when the three are scheduled to be arraigned.

The National Lawyers Guild [obtained](#) the indictment from the Clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court. What the indictment shows is the three —Brian Church, 22, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Jared Chase, 27, of Keene, New Hampshire, and Brent Betterly, 24, who lives in Massachusetts—are not just facing charges of material support for terrorism, possession of an incendiary device, and conspiracy to commit terrorism, which were previously known to the lawyers and the public. The three also face charges of “possession of an incendiary device, attempted arson, solicitation to commit arson, conspiracy to commit arson and two counts of unlawful use of a weapon.” That brings the total number of charges the men face to eleven.

A [copy](#) of the indictments is posted online. The “possession of an incendiary device” charges seem to indicate state prosecutors are overcharging the activists: possessed and manufactured any incendiary device and intended to use such device to commit the offense of terrorism, possessed and manufactured any incendiary device and intended to use such device to commit the offense of arson, possessed and manufactured any incendiary device and knew that another intended to use such incendiary device to commit the offense of arson and possessed and manufactured any incendiary device and knew that another intended to use such incendiary device to commit the offense of terrorism.

Infiltrators that went by the names “Mo” and “Gloves,” according to the NLG and Occupy Chicago, allegedly helped law enforcement target and arrest these men. Illinois State’s Attorney Anita Alvarez has claimed they possessed and/or constructed “improvised explosive-incendiary devices” (IEDs) and “various types of dangerous weapons including a mortar gun, swords, a hunting bow, throwing stars, and knives with brass-knuckle handles.” Her office has accused the men of making “Molotov cocktails.” But, as of now, no pictures of these items have appeared in the local press in Chicago and none of the lawyers have been shown these “dangerous weapons.”

The charge that suggests the three “agreed with another to the commission” of arson and “they and/or co-conspirators unknown to the grand jury committed an act in furtherance of that agreement” likely stems from statements provided to the grand jury by the infiltrators.

Chicago NLG spokesperson Kris Hermes says, “Given that no Molotov cocktails or other incendiary devices have been used at any political demonstration in the U.S. in recent memory, questions of whether law enforcement is in fact provoking or manufacturing criminal activity remain unanswered and extremely relevant.”

The NLG doesn’t know how involved these infiltrators were in the case, but they participated in Occupy Chicago protests in April outside a mental health clinic Mayor Rahm Emanuel wants to shut down. They were arrested in a preemptive raid by police on an apartment in Bridgeport, Chicago, on May 16 with nine others, including the three men charged, and were separated from the nine people arrested. They have not been seen since they were arrested in the raid.

The law enforcement operation bears similarity to previous FBI operations that were designed to push individuals to the brink of committing acts of violence. For example, ahead of the Republican National

Convention in 2008, the FBI [used](#) infiltrator and provocateur, Brandon Darby, to go after two activists, David McKay and Bradley Crowder.

As noted in [previous \*Dissenter\* coverage of the case](#), Michael Deutsch, lawyer for Church, believes the infiltrators met up with Betterly, Chase, and Church at the May Day demonstration in Chicago. He believes these infiltrators then went about trying to convince the three men to engage in a terror plot against the NATO summit. When they failed, the infiltrators planted materials for the authorities to find when they raided the apartment, which makes this case “worse than entrapment.”

The three men are the first to be charged with terrorism under an Illinois state terrorism law that passed a few years after the September 11th attacks. The state prosecutors may be under pressure to not botch the prosecution because of the power this case has to set legal precedent in the state. As a result, defense lawyers and those charged and arrested—including the six others released on May 17 and 18 after the raid—have been subjected to possible legal misconduct and civil liberties violations, such as:

- Disappearing of arrestees after the raid;
- Refusal to show arrestees’ attorneys a search warrant;
- Detention of arrestees without charge for one to two days before six were released without charges;
- Interrogations intended to intimidate and force individuals to falsely confess or snitch on others in the movement;
- Refusal to show any evidence against the arrestees charged with terrorism prior to a bond hearing on May 19;
- Decision by someone in the department to [show police records](#) on the arrestees to the *Chicago Tribune* so they could be turned into boogeymen ahead of a Saturday bond hearing (just before the NATO summit on Sunday and Monday);
- Denial of access to copies of indictments against the men

All of which suggests this is nothing but a [preemptive political prosecution](#). Until the NATO 3 are convicted or the case is, as it should be, dismissed, there will be more instances where the rights or civil liberties of the accused are violated.

### **National Lawyers Guild Uncovers Terrorism Indictments in Chicago NATO Protest Case**

After being denied access to the charges brought last week by the State’s Attorney’s Office against three NATO protesters accused of terrorism crimes, defense counsel obtained the [indictment](#) today from the Clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court. In addition to the previous State charges of material support for terrorism, possession of an incendiary device, and conspiracy to commit terrorism, prosecutors also charged the three defendants — Brent Betterly, Jared Chase, and Brian Jacob Church — with additional counts of possession of an incendiary device, attempted arson, solicitation to commit arson, conspiracy to commit arson and two counts of unlawful use of a weapon, totalling 11 charges each. All three defendants remain in jail on \$1.5 million bond.

“The prosecutor controls the grand jury and is able to obtain a rubber-stamped indictment for any charges it desires,” said Chicago National Lawyers Guild (NLG) attorney Michael Deutsch, from the People’s Law Office and one of Church’s defense attorneys. “The fact that the indictment charges the defendants with 11 serious felonies, including ‘terrorism’ and two separate ‘conspiracy’ charges for the alleged possession of 4 makeshift incendiary devices shows that the State is intent on continuing its strategy to sensationalize this case.”

While this is the first time the State’s Attorney’s Office has filed charges under the Illinois terrorism statute, certain aspects of the case, such as infiltration and the politicization of criminal activity, are common to other contemporary high-profile cases elsewhere in the country. In early May, federal terrorism and explosives charges were brought against five men in a Cleveland case that involved at least one infiltrator, questions of

provocation, and the intentional use by prosecutors of terms like “anarchists” and the “Occupy Wall Street” movement in an effort to politicize the accusations. Another federal explosives case stemming from the 2008 Republican convention protests in St. Paul also involved informants.

“The common thread running through the NATO 3 case and other similar contemporary cases is politically motivated infiltration,” said Chicago NLG spokesperson Kris Hermes. “Given that no Molotov cocktails or other incendiary devices have been used at any political demonstration in the U.S. in recent memory, questions of whether law enforcement is in fact provoking or manufacturing criminal activity remain unanswered and extremely relevant.”

At least two infiltrators were used to arrest the NATO 3 defendants, as well as two other activists seriously charged during the NATO demonstrations in May. “Mo” and “Gloves” were part of a months-long investigation into Occupy Chicago, including getting arrested in April during protests to keep the Woodlawn Mental Health Clinic open. Questions remain as to the infiltrators’ intent, as well as the breadth of their involvement. The infiltrators were also arrested in the Bridgeport house raid, at the same time the NATO 3 defendants were arrested, but “Mo” and “Gloves” have not been seen since. Six other activists arrested in the raid were released more than 30 hours later without any charges.

The NATO 3 were formally indicted by grand jury on June 12th and are expected to be arraigned at 9am on Monday, July 2nd in room 101 of the Cook County Courthouse at 2600 S. California.

## **20 Jun - Justin Solondz Torches a Movement**

*Here’s an article from a so-called alternative weekly about recently transferred ELF prisoner Justin Solondz.*

### **MORE:**

**One day last July**, FBI agent Ted Halla flew to Beijing to meet a man who had eluded authorities for a decade. In person, Justin Solondz wasn't what Halla was expecting. Wearing khakis and a black shirt, the 31-year-old fugitive was smaller and leaner than he'd imagined. Solondz's light-brown hair—which once hung to his shoulders, and which, with his beard and handsome face, conspired to make him appear Jesus-like—now took the form of a buzz cut.

He spoke Chinese—badly in Solondz's view, impressively in Halla's. When he spoke English, he did so with a thick accent that to the agent's ears sounded British, even though he knew his fugitive had grown up on America's East Coast.

Perhaps most surprising was Solondz's demeanor. "Of all the people I've ever arrested, I've probably never been greeted as warmly," says Halla.

Solondz, it seemed, was ready to move on with his life. And no wonder. He had spent the previous two years in a Chinese prison where, according to a court memo submitted by his lawyer, he was sometimes chained inside a glass-enclosed cell and fed only when he met his daily quota of shelled peas.

While being transferred into U.S. custody may have come as a relief, it also came at the cost of being held accountable for one of the most notorious crimes in Pacific Northwest history. In 2001, Solondz and four other environmental activists set fire to the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture as a protest against genetic engineering.

The targeting of an esteemed academic institution—carried out on the same day as a related arson at an Oregon tree farm—made national news. It propelled a major law-enforcement effort to catch the saboteurs, dubbed "Operation Backfire," and a fierce debate about the meaning of terrorism. Authorities labeled the arsonists terrorists, a term the press turned into the catchier "eco-terrorists," while activists warned of a "green scare" and argued that property crimes did not constitute terrorism—an argument that had particular resonance after 9/11.

Now that the feds had Solondz, the last of the UW arsonists still free, the case could finally close. He had already been fingered by his former cohorts, including an ex-girlfriend, Briana Waters, who'd promised to

cooperate with Solondz's prosecution as part of a plea deal. In March, after accepting his own plea bargain, Solondz received a seven-year prison sentence. On June 22, Waters will learn her own fate at a scheduled sentencing.

On websites devoted to radical activism, Waters is now labeled a "snitch" and Solondz a "political prisoner." Yet one of the most stinging indictments of their fiery political statement can be found in Solondz's own legal papers. The crime was "stunning" in its "political tone-deafness," reads his sentencing memorandum. "The actual goal of making a notable public statement in favor of the environment morphed into the polar-opposite consequence of completely discrediting the local activist fringes of the environmental movement."

Indeed, the underground cell to which Solondz belonged—affiliated with both the Earth and Animal Liberation fronts—intended the blazing double whammy to be an inspiration for a groundswell of similar so-called "direct actions." Instead, the fire marked the beginning of the underground movement's downfall.

**Growing up** in New Jersey, Solondz was an arty and athletic honors student, with what one old school friend called in court documents an "effortless popularity and social grace." Accepted into such prestigious institutions as the University of Chicago and the Rhode Island School of Design, Solondz ultimately chose to attend Evergreen State College in Olympia, then as now famous for its freewheeling curriculum and activist-minded student body.

According to Kim Marks, a fellow student, Solondz seemed to thrive in his new home. "He had a passion for life, just a lot of positive energy," says Marks, who now runs an eco-friendly sex shop in Portland. One time, she remembers, Solondz decided he wanted to learn how to can food, starting with applesauce, so he went door to door asking for the fruit. "He ended up with a wheelbarrow full of apples," she says. "He didn't just make a little applesauce. He made a lot of applesauce."

Solondz's passion soon found a home in Olympia's activist community, to which Marks also belonged. It was only a few years after the passage of controversial legislation that allowed timber sales in areas previously off-limits. Environmentalists were incensed. "There was completely lawless logging happening in the Northwest," says Marks, who claims loggers were deliberately setting fire to forests so the trees could be declared "salvage."

That perceived travesty, and the overall call to save what remained of old-growth forests, turned the Northwest into a mecca for young activists. Marks moved up from California when she was 18, living first in Eugene. Leslie Pickering, who later became a press officer for the Earth Liberation Front, also left California for Oregon as a teen, and found a lot of like-minded people when he arrived. Anti-logging blockades and tree-sits were so common, he says, that "you could pick and choose between a half-dozen protests an hour's drive from Portland."

While not quite as intense as in neighboring Oregon, forest battles were heating up in Washington too. Marks says an Olympia-based group known as the Cascadia Defense Network began holding protests, focusing on logging in the nearby Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Solondz joined the group, as did Waters.

Solondz and Waters, four years his senior, had become a striking and seemingly well-matched couple. She had flowing blond hair, and like him was arty and an East Coast transplant. Hailing from the Philadelphia suburbs, she played the violin, studied film, and was a passionate idealist.

Jim Dawson, Solondz's onetime roommate at Evergreen and now campaign director for the liberal activist group Fuse, recalls spending hours talking with his friend about "how to create social change." Together they worked on what Dawson says were successful campaigns to start composting and recycling programs at Evergreen, while Waters participated in campus animal-rights and environmental groups for which she held vegan potlucks.

In 1999, when Waters was a senior, the Network decided to hold a tree-sit on Watch Mountain, located outside the tiny Lewis County town of Randle. Thick with towering Douglas firs, the scenic area was due to be turned over to Plum Creek Timber in a land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service. The activists intended to stop the deal.

Not just participants, Solondz and Waters also filmed the entire half-year protest, which Waters eventually turned into a documentary and senior project. The film, *Watch*, captures the dozen or so young tree-sitters hoisting plywood platforms up among the branches. More remarkably, it also chronicles the protest's growing support among townsfolk, many of whom were from logging families.

"We don't want your kind of business here any more," one resident intoned at a town meeting captured on tape. The forests around Randle had already been heavily logged, leaving clear-cut eyesores, and some blamed Plum Creek for landslides on other parcels of land where it had worked.

The cultivation of townsfolk was deliberate. Marks recalls how she and other activists set out an information table in front of the local grocery store, knocked on doors to explain their cause, and volunteered at the town food bank to generate goodwill. Local residents responded by bringing food and firewood to the tree-sitters. According to Marks, one church even donated a pew for the activists to sit on when they weren't in the trees.

"This was a unique and unprecedented effort," says Dave Werntz, science and conservation director for prominent environmental organization Conservation Northwest. It marked the first time, he says, that environmental activists had been able to ally themselves with a blue-collar community. More significant, "it did ultimately lead to the end of old-growth logging in Washington state."

Having lost the PR war, Plum Creek negotiated a settlement, agreeing to take Watch Mountain out of the deal. It was November and a foot of snow had fallen, along with some trees. Speaking directly to Waters' camera, Solondz said it seemed as if nature was "reclaiming the land." He added, "I felt really good that we had helped that right to continue."

The mainstream environmental community applauded. In fact, inspired by the success, Werntz says, environmentalists took its spirit of collaboration one step further and made a surprising discovery when they began negotiating directly with timber companies. "The timber industry was saying we don't want old growth any more. We've already retooled," says Werntz. Having logged most of the region's old growth, companies had put equipment in their mills suitable for cutting younger, thinner trees.

But if Randle was a victory, it soon lost its shine. "The tragedy is that that history is now tainted by the reckless behavior of some of the folks involved," says Werntz. "Somehow these guys got off-track and missed the relevance of one of the most important things that's happened in the environmental movement." Instead of pursuing the kind of collaboration that won the day, he says, Solondz and Waters "did exactly the opposite: vigilantism."

To Marks, though, the takeaway was very different. The timber companies "didn't come to the table willingly . . . what worked was leverage." The activists, not all love and music, had also put further pressure on Plum Creek by occupying their Seattle offices and shouting "Whatever it takes!"

Solondz and Waters apparently thought it was going to take a lot more.

**As it happened**, the Watch Mountain tree village was dismantled one day before one of the most galvanizing events in local activist history: the World Trade Organization protests in Seattle. Many of the tree-sitters drove up to participate peaceably, including Solondz and Waters, while other activists staged a more destructive protest. The common perception was that the perpetrators were anarchists, many hailing from Eugene. Some were. But they also were part of a growing underground movement that, in the words of a communiqué written soon after, "strategically and specifically" engaged in "direct action against corporate interests."

Those "direct actions" had been going on for years. In 1995, underground activists firebombed a Eugene ice-cream producer called Dutch Girl Dairy. The facility saw its trucks spray-painted with the slogans "ALF," "Go Vegan," and "Dairy = Death." A year later, arson destroyed a U.S. Forest Service station in Detroit, Ore., about 100 miles northeast of Eugene. The arsonists left spray-painted messages there too: "Earth Liberation Front" and "Stop Raping Our Forests."

"That was the first time in U.S. history that you see arson attributed to the ELF," says Agent Halla, who worked on Operation Backfire from the FBI's Seattle office. "Prior to that, the ELF was only in Europe."

In 1998, two simultaneous arsons in Olympia, a precursor to the double whammy at UW and the Oregon tree farm, also made U.S. history. Fires at the federal Forest Land Management Center and an Animal Damage Control facility were the first for which the ALF and ELF issued a joint statement. "This war on wildlife and nature must end!" it read.

The perpetrators were a fluid group. Authorities say its members called themselves "the Family," but in court testimony they themselves rarely mention this, using nicknames like "Crazy Dan," "Capitol Hill Girl," and "Country Boy."

Some had met at another big logging protest at Oregon's Warner Creek, where activists blockaded a logging road throughout the winter of 1995 and well into the following year. Others came together during the WTO protests. Still others joined later, introduced to the group by a friend or lover. Eugene Police Detective Greg Harvey, a key player in Operation Backfire, says that among his colleagues "a lot of people realized how far love will go."

Yet the group defied generalization, both in who belonged and why they had joined. "There was no pattern," Harvey says. "That was the amazing thing." One member, Jake Ferguson, was homeless for a time and living "out of a dumpster," Harvey says. Another, Jonathan Paul, brother of *Baywatch* star Alexandra Paul, had lots of money at his disposal. Jennifer Kolar—who had dated Paul and, later, another alleged cell member who worked as a Microsoft programmer—held a master's in astrophysics, was a high-tech executive in Seattle, and raced yachts for fun.

Not much is known about exactly how Solondz and Waters hooked up with "the Family," a cell of roughly 20 members. But a leading figure lived right in their backyard. William Rodgers, also known as "Avalon," was an Olympia resident. Charismatic and a decade older than most other participants, Harvey says, he was considered an "upper statesman." He had participated in the Warner Creek blockade and the WTO vandalism, and had written several manuals for would-be saboteurs that had become Internet classics, including *Setting Fires with Electrical Timers: An Earth Liberation Front Guide*.

Rodgers recruited a number of the cell's members. And in April 2001, according to government documents and Solondz's and Waters' own concise accounts in their plea agreements, he asked both if they would take part in an arson. She was 25. He was 21.

They had known Rodgers at least a year, according to their plea agreements. But if they had been members of Rodgers' cell prior to that day in April, they had been marginal ones. Neither had attended any of the five so-called "book-club" meetings at which the cell had made plans—secret affairs in five different states, one devoted to making firebombs, another to e-mail encryption methods.

Solondz, though, may have participated in one prior action. Another member, testifying in Waters' 2008 trial under the terms of a plea bargain, said she, Solondz, and six to eight others had sneaked onto a Monsanto farm in eastern Washington in August 2000. Wearing only black, the group accidentally vandalized a barley field before destroying their intended target: five acres of genetically engineered canola plants, which they pulled out of the ground like weeds.

The near-mistake was telling. For all their proficiency with methods of sabotage—and Halla says what distinguished the cell was how good they became at arson—the activists could sometimes be clueless about who and what they were targeting. This flaw was never more apparent than when Solondz and Waters carried out their most significant act of destruction.

**Genetic engineering** didn't register as a burning concern for everyone in the cell. But according to Kolar, the high-tech executive, a couple of people pushed it. "This group as a whole had agreed on trying to pick a single topic to focus on that we thought might be winnable, and genetic engineering was decided to be that topic," she

said while testifying at Waters' trial as part of her plea bargain. "There was a fair amount of public sympathy against it."

What the group needed next was a target. Kolar went on to describe how she was approached by a member of the cell early in 2001 with an idea for an action at UW. He took her on a bike ride to the Center for Urban Horticulture. "He didn't have a whole lot of information at the time," Kolar recalled. "He mentioned Bradshaw was a researcher there doing genetic engineering."

That would be Toby Bradshaw, a plant biologist whose name had also come up during one of the cell's book-club meetings. But the evolving plot against him was apparently discussed by only a few people. Lacey Phillabaum, another cell member who at one point had edited the *Earth First! Journal* in Eugene, testified that she was approached on a Thursday in May, just 10 days before the arson, with an invitation to participate, and was initially not given any details other than that she would be driving north.

Phillabaum headed to Olympia that weekend with other cell members in a drive soundtracked by the alternative group Elastica. At a Denny's, she testified, she met the four others involved in the arson: Rodgers, Kolar, Waters, and Solondz.

Phillabaum said they stayed at Waters' house, where details of the plan began to take shape. In a garage that had been turned into a "clean room," with plastic draped over the walls to keep them clear of fingerprints, Solondz told them about the new and improved firebombs he had designed, which used dumpster-dived water bladders to hold the devices rather than the less-portable buckets used by previous arsonists. Later that weekend, Kolar, who had just taken a class at Seattle Stained Glass, told the group how she intended to score a window of Bradshaw's office with a technique that would keep the glass from shattering.

The crew returned to Olympia the following weekend. Phillabaum testified that at one point she and Waters went into the clean room, ostensibly to finish building the firebombs. "My feeling was that it was a method of getting our hands dirty so that we were as implicated as other people were in the crime," she said. To Phillabaum, the devices looked like alarm clocks with wires sticking out of them, nestled in "sandwich-sized" Tupperware containers which held the fuel.

Late that Sunday night, Phillabaum, Rodgers, Waters, and Solondz drove to Seattle. Meeting Kolar, their first stop was the Greenlake Bar & Grill, where they tried to establish an alibi. Then they headed for campus, parking on a dead-end street near the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Solondz, according to his plea agreement, stayed with the car. Waters, according to hers, also stayed behind in the bushes to serve as a lookout. The other three crew members walked down a grassy slope to the building, where Kolar went to work on Bradshaw's office window, which, despite her plan, ended up shattering.

After the firebombs were set, the crew hurried back into the car, which Solondz soon scraped against another that was double-parked on a residential street. "There was panic," Phillabaum recalled. They pulled over. For a few short minutes, everyone listened to their plan unfolding on a radio scanner. They heard a firefighter talk about how he was on the roof above the fire. Being a science building, he was worried there might be chemicals down below. "It was terrifying to hear him in this dangerous situation," Phillabaum later recalled. Rodgers, on the other hand, "seemed excited."

With Rodgers now behind the wheel, the crew dropped off Kolar and stopped at a park, where they waited until rush hour so that they could blend in with traffic for the drive back to Olympia. Phillabaum said she eventually ended up in a rented cabin in the woods, where she met the cell members who had carried out the twin arson at the Oregon tree farm. After a couple of hours of sleep, they sat down and crafted a note, their explanation to the world of why they thought the deliberately set blaze had been necessary.

"Bradshaw . . . continues to unleash mutant genes into the environment that is [sic] certain to cause irreversible harm to forest ecosystems . . . As long as universities continue to pursue this reckless 'science,' they run the risk of suffering severe losses. Our message remains clear, we are determined to stop genetic engineering."

**Bradshaw got a call** at 6 a.m. Monday from a colleague who told him the horticulture center was on fire. By the time he arrived, however, the "towering inferno" that authorities later described in court briefs was gone, thanks to hours of work on the part of firefighters.

The damage, eventually estimated at \$6 million, was extensive. A library of rare horticultural manuscripts dating back to the 16th century had been ravaged. A variety of researchers lost work, including, according to Bradshaw, a colleague's slides of Mt. St. Helens after the 1980 volcanic eruption.

In contrast, Bradshaw, a blunt and irascible 55-year-old, says the fire "had no affect at all on my research. Zero." The poplar trees Bradshaw was growing and studying weren't in the building, and he'd backed up all his data on tapes. His losses amounted to a few books and papers, even though, as his blown-out office window revealed, "It was pretty clear I was the target."

It was also pretty clear that the arsonists had made a big mistake. It was true, as his detractors liked to point out, that Bradshaw got a lot of his funding from timber companies. And those timber companies were interested in his research in part because they potentially could have used the results to genetically engineer new kinds of trees. But, as the press immediately announced, contrary to what the activists believed, Bradshaw was not in fact doing genetic engineering. He was instead growing hybrid poplars using traditional cross-breeding methods.

At the time, he was, in his words, a "basic researcher" who simply wanted to understand how plants work. Which isn't to say he has a problem with genetic engineering. In perhaps the greatest irony of the arson's aftermath, Bradshaw says that now he does it "all the time."

Today, Bradshaw studies the genetic difference between scarlet and pink monkey flowers, for which he traded poplars years ago—not because of the arson, he says, but because they're much easier to study. The trees have a growing cycle of four years; the flowers, only 90 days. And while he still cross-breeds, he also uses genetic engineering to speed up what would otherwise be the time-consuming process of verifying his work. As he puts it, to check that one of his assumptions is right, he "just pops [the gene] right in."

**Bradshaw and his flowers** hardly conjure up Frankensteinian notions of "risky science." Yet plenty of people continue to believe that genetic engineering is just that. Public sentiment has grown more suspicious since the UW arsonists judged it a winnable cause, even as the technology's use has become more pervasive.

Michael Hansen, senior staff scientist at the Consumers Union, the organization that publishes *Consumer Reports*, points to what he calls a "huge expansion" in the use of pesticides brought by the technology. That's because agribusiness genetically engineers crops to make them resistant to herbicides. A movement to label transgenic foods resulted in a dozen legislative bills across the country over the past year, including one which failed in Washington.

Yet that movement is very much above-ground. In contrast, despite the occasional arson or animal "release" at a fur farm, the underground movement is, as Pickering puts it, "at a weak point."

In the Northwest, the movement's decline began shortly after the UW arson. Pickering left Portland in the summer of 2002 to pursue a master's in history and journalism and start a radical bookstore in Buffalo, N.Y. At the time of his exodus, he says, "the scene was blowing up. Everyone was moving out. It was very apparent there was a massive crackdown."

A task force of local and federal officials began to question activists. Eventually, authorities pressured one, the formerly homeless Ferguson, into wearing a wire and traveling around the country to capture his former cell members on tape. The feds made their first arrests in December 2005, netting six people including Rodgers, the respected elder statesman, who later suffocated himself in an Arizona prison. A month later authorities indicted six more cell members. The majority of the UW arsonists remained free, although not for long.

As alleged terrorists, the activists faced life sentences in maximum-security prisons—an exponentially stiffer punishment than most arsonists received in the federal system. One by one, many of the defendants agreed to plea bargains under which they testified against people they had sworn never to rat out.

As the defendants began to talk, authorities learned of other participants. The following year, the FBI indicted Solondz, Waters, Kolar, and Phillabaum. By then Solondz was traveling abroad, stopping initially in Italy for a family wedding. He eventually made his way to China, where he was arrested for making hash out of wild marijuana in the mountainous province where he'd been hiding out.

It wasn't just the crackdown that upended the underground scene, though. Its members began to bicker over frayed relationships. Waters, for one, thought Phillabaum had slept with Solondz and broke up with him for a time because of it, according to her testimony at trial. And, Pickering recalls, some wanted to step things up by harming people, not just property.

Others, at least according to their later protestations, felt that they had already gone too far. Says Solondz's sentencing memorandum: "For Mr. Solondz the arson was a major wake-up call. He shared responsibility for a major environmental 'action,' but felt absolutely stunned at the tragic, destructive outcome and regretted it almost immediately. He has never been able to justify the group's action to himself or anyone else. In the months following the arson, he broke off his social relationships with most people in the environmental underground. He began questioning his own sense of self-righteousness and turned more inward and introspective."

That introspective bent continued through Solondz's incarceration in China. In their letters to the judge, family members wrote of the many books they sent him, until he asked for no more so that he could concentrate on learning Chinese. An aunt included a letter from Solondz in which he described what he hoped to study during his coming stint in American prisons—"the boring but significant" gaps in his philosophy reading, including the works of Kant, Hegel, and Heidegger.

"But at the same time," he added, "I am probably more curious and open than I have ever been." He seemed that way to Halla too. On their 15-hour flight from China to the States, Solondz eagerly flipped through the newsmagazines Halla had brought for his arrestee. He wanted to know more about what he'd missed while he was in his Chinese black hole, like the killing of Osama bin Laden. He also expressed concern about a fellow prisoner who was Ethiopian. Solondz believed the man was being treated especially harshly, and wanted to try to contact his family.

Solondz struck Halla as thoughtful, exceedingly well-read, and "complex." In their conversations, Halla says, "you would not get a simple answer. He would stop and analyze everything.

"I don't think even he understands himself yet," says the agent. "He's a work in progress."

## **20 Jun - In the early days of my activism... by Josh Harper**

*Released from supervised release just days ago, we've included a short piece by former SHAC 7 prisoner Josh Harper.*

### **MORE:**

In the early days of my activism when my zeal was high and my intelligence was low I would loudly proclaim to anyone who would listen that I was unafraid to go to prison for what I believed in. My thinking at the time was that I was just so damn courageous that I could easily deflect whatever the system had to throw at me, that when my glasses came off somehow I could transform from mild mannered Josh Harper into SuperVegan and get through the American gulag unscathed.

Well, as anyone who knew me in those days can tell you, I was an idiot.

Prison was the most difficult thing that I have ever been through. What I saw on the inside still shakes me, and it is more common for me to wake up from nightmares than to sleep through the night. I do not regret taking the

actions that I took for animals, and I would not have changed course even knowing that the campaign against Huntingdon Life Sciences would eventually land me behind bars, but I never should have spoken with so much bravado and false courage when I was younger. The fact is that incarceration in this country can be brutal and frightening, and while we must still be willing to go forward with those risky actions necessary to improve the situation on this planet we should not do so blindly.

One thing we can do is to make time less difficult for our comrades behind bars, and create a culture of resistance that includes and supports prisoners. To that end, today I want to talk about CeCe McDonald, a trans-woman doing time for an act of self defense against a neo-Nazi targeting her for both her race and gender identity. While standing her ground against multiple attackers, and after having a glass smashed in her face, CeCe stabbed one assailant and is now doing 41 months on manslaughter charges in a men's prison in Minnesota. Her spirits seem high, and it is up to all of us to make certain that they stay that way, that prison staff know that thousands of us are watching, and to make it clear that we want CeCe's journey through this sentence to be a safe one. So, get writing, and better yet, organize a letter writing party! Her address follows below, show some solidarity.

### **21 Jun - David Rovics Visits Marie Mason in Texas**

*The following is an account of David Rocic's trip to Texas, which included a visit to Marie Mason in Carswell. It is a very moving account and gives a good picture as to what Marie is going through right now.*

#### **MORE:**

I took a taxi to the Portland airport and flew to Houston, via Seattle. My ride to the show was one of the organizers and a friend of hers, and they were stuck in traffic. I sat outside the terminal with my stuff in the shade on a bench, watching the SUV's and pickup trucks come and get everybody, many of them getting yelled at by an overzealous traffic guy. The man sitting beside me asks to borrow my phone. He calls his sister, who is waiting for him at the airport but they can't find each other. I wonder if maybe she's at the other Houston airport, so I make sure he explains to her we're at George HW Bush Intercontinental. Then she figures out what's wrong – he came to the wrong city. She's in Dallas, a four-hour drive to the north. He's never been to the US. He's from an island in the Caribbean I had never heard of with a population of 20,000. It hadn't occurred to him that Texas might have more than one international airport. My ride arrives and we head into the city. Both of the women had been in prison for nonviolent drug-related crimes of one sort or another and had come out more leftwing than when they went in. We got to the Houston Cultural Center and there was a spiffy red and yellow flag with a hammer and sickle on it. The Houston Communist Party, proudly displaying their flag. There were a couple dozen people of all ages, mostly a bit older. Much of the crowd is made up of my most reliable fans, who are on my email list, folks I used to see more often when I more or less lived in Houston, at KPFT events or Green Party meetings.

The next day, Friday, I visited KOOP in Austin and spent an hour with veteran underground newspaper editor turned modern-day blogger Thorne Dreyer, then it was off to San Marcos for a concert in the outdoor pavilion of a suburban house belonging to a leftwing police sergeant. He voted for GW the first time but after that came to his senses and became a leftist. He tries to get his cops to watch Michael Moore films but most of them politely decline. Two of his cops came to the show. They were nice enough, but I'm not sure how much they liked it. Sergeant Dave Waugh apparently has a poster on the wall of his office at the police station from my Halliburton Boardroom Massacre tour. Definitely the kind of cop I like!

The next morning I discovered that there is no good coffee at the Austin airport, none. But I'm sure I slept better on the plane to Dallas that way, anyhow. In Dallas I got some coffee, rented a car and pointed the GPS towards the Carswell Federal Medical Center in Fort Worth, where my friend Marie Mason is serving a 22-1/2 year prison sentence. The prison is next to a military base, but my GPS said it was on the base, so I went to the base's entrance. The teenager in camouflage on guard politely directed me to the main entrance of the military base when I explained I was trying to visit the prison. Miles away at the main entrance a woman gave me a piece of paper with directions to the entrance to the prison. Apparently this happens often. The directions are old, and some of the landmarks in them don't exist anymore, such as a CVS pharmacy that has closed since someone

printed them out. After getting thoroughly lost, I finally find the entrance to the prison, save the coordinates, and the guard tells me I'm ten minutes too late for visiting hours, they're over for the day. It's Saturday, and visiting days are Saturday and Sunday. He tells me which hours I can come back the next morning.

That evening I'm playing at a beautiful chapel sort of place, one of those big, spacious modern churches that the big cities of Texas are full of – gotta spend that oil money on something I guess. The place was designed for sound, but the stage was oddly set in the wrong part of the room, so the echo was horrendous. Whoever designed the building would have been really annoyed with whoever decided to put a stage in that part of the room, but it was a fun show, with a fairly small but very enthusiastic crowd. Dallas has a large population of folks from all over what we call the Middle East. There in a suburb (the whole city is a suburb) called Richardson the directors of the Holy Land Foundation were found guilty of giving charity to hungry Palestinians in some fashion that the government decided was terroristic, and now they're serving unbelievably long prison sentences of up to 65 years, in Communication Management Units similar to the one Marie is being held in. (Listen to my song about the [the Holy Land 5](#) if you want.) I recognize faces in the crowd from the Palestine Film Festival in Dallas where I've played before. Others, such as one of the organizers of the show, Leslie Harris, I recognize from Camp Casey and many protest-related encounters since then. Camp Casey is what changed her life, and she went from organizing tailgate parties at football games to organizing tailgate parties at protests. Even as her life was changed by living in the ditch with Cindy Sheehan beside Bush's ranch in Crawford, some of the cops assigned to dealing with Camp Casey were also changed by the experience, became different people, different cops. What seemed like the remnants of Occupy Dallas were also there. I never got to Dallas during the Occupy Autumn, but the Occupy crowd was clearly represented, waving their hands in the air instead of clapping when someone said something they liked, with the sort of enthusiasm of people who just discovered this tradition of unobtrusive appreciation. I personally associate it with the anticapitalist movement around 1999-2001, but I'm sure it predates that scene as well.

In the morning I left Leslie's house early to get to the prison on time, but there was massive construction going on at one of the interchanges and I missed the exit and had to drive an extra twenty miles or so, and by the time I got to the gate the first window of opportunity was over, which was from like 8 to 9 am, and the next one was at around 11. I went and got more caffeinated at a nearby Starbucks full of camouflaged soldiers on breaks, who all looked tired and worn down. When I got back to the gate there was a line of cars waiting along the road for the gate to open. Should've got there sooner, I realized. But the line moved, slowly. I got to the gate house and the harried-looking man there told me I couldn't go in because the expiration date on my driver's license is faded (which it is). I should have brought my passport for extra ID but I didn't. I sat there for a couple minutes or so thinking about the possibility that I had come all the way to Texas to visit Marie in prison and would be turned away for having some faded text on my stupid Oregon driver's license. He called someone and came back and told me I could go in, that they'd decide whether my ID was OK further on in the visitation process.

I drove down the barren streets in the neighborhood past the gate. It was a very basic kind of prefabricated neighborhood clearly intended to house workers, very much like the places where the soldiers lived in the massive adjoining military base. There are signs all over the place announcing that any visitors can be searched anytime, but there was no one around who looked like they had any time to search a car, the streets were empty. The guard at the gate had told me to take a right, head towards the big flag, then park in the lot beyond it. The big flag was indeed big, and impossible to miss. It flew proudly directly in front of the building where visitors enter the prison. The friendly, obese man behind the desk smiled and said, "we've been waiting for you!" I wasn't sure if that was about the faded expiration date on my license or because I was visiting one of the few women held in this ultra-maximum-security prison within a prison that are the CMU's, nicknamed Little Guantanos, since most of the prisoners in them are of Muslim extraction.

Visiting Marie there at Carswell is a special procedure, not like visiting most of the thousands of prisoners at this huge complex surrounded by multiple, very tall, very barbed-wire fences, overseen by a tower, presumably staffed with snipers. A guard escorts a group of us visitors to a big room where most of the visitation is taking place. I'm instructed to wait until another guard comes to get me. I don't want to be nosy, so I sit close to the wall, several meters away from the nearest group of visitors and prisoners hanging out together. I can't hear

much of what people are saying, but from the body language of everybody in the room it's completely clear – the sadness, the guilt, the mourning, the attempts at putting on a brave face, the stiff upper lips, it's all there on everybody's faces as clear as tattoos.

A guard comes to get me. He's a clean, polite, short man with a close-cropped goatee and an Italian name. His demeanor seems highly professional, he strikes me more like Secret Service or FBI rather than what I imagine prison guards to be like. I don't know many prison guards, but you hear about the sadistic rapists, like the 7 or 8 from this very prison who are themselves in another prison now for raping inmates – not like this clean, polite professional. He takes me through a variety of the biggest metal doors I have ever seen, doors that make the bomb-proof buildings I've seen in Ireland look like tin foil. They always came in sets of twos, and the guard always needed someone else to let us in. They all have these massive keys, the size of the old ones, but higher-tech-looking. The doors, of course, all open and close by themselves, slowly, deliberately, so you can feel just how massive they are. Each one must weigh a ton.

Finally I'm led into a room, completely barren except for an odd poster of the Statue of Liberty or something, and two card tables with a few plastic chairs around them. The tables are next to each other. The guard takes one of the tables and moves it to the other end of the room. The room is around four square meters, not very big, but he takes his table as far from the other one as he can. A door opens after a few minutes, and there is Marie in her blue prison jumpsuit. I then realized that the guard was trying to give us as much space as he could under the circumstances during our visit. Marie and I hugged briefly – she had already told me over the phone or in a letter how full-blown hugging is forbidden, but a brief greeting hug seems to be acceptable.

I hadn't seen Marie in person for years, since she was under house arrest in Michigan. She looks a lot like she used to except for the gray hair and the pallor of a person who lives in a cage with very little access to direct sunlight. In her face is the clear look of an animal who is attempting to live a life inside a cage. Not surprising to see that look, since that's the situation she's in. We talk about her conditions and things she could use in there. The problem is, there's so little she's allowed to do. Where she was held before, at Waseca up north, closer to home, to where most of her family and friends live, she was allowed to play the guitar and there was regular access to social activities with other prisoners at least. Then she was moved to Carswell, a thousand miles from most of her personal connections, to a city where she didn't even know a single person, for example, someone with whom her children could stay when they came to visit, so they didn't have to pay for a hotel. There at Carswell she had access to a guitar for a little while every week or two, that was it. The occasional phone call, the occasional visit on some weekends when someone like me made the trek to Dallas from somewhere far away.

There are only twenty women in her unit in total. Most of them are crazy, and badly-behaved, and her unit is under lockdown much of the time. Several of the prisoners are some of the finest political prisoners you could imagine. Aafia Siddiqui, the Pakistani scientist who supposedly attempted to defend herself against American soldiers who had kidnapped her. Ana Belen Montes, the high-ranking Defense Department official convicted of spying for Cuba for 25 years, about whom I wrote a song about ten years ago. And Marie Mason, convicted of several cases of politically-motivated arson. Like Montes, Marie did not hurt anyone in carrying out her offenses, but now, like Montes, she is serving a sentence many times the length of sentences served by lots of actually violent criminals. The mix of the insane and the political seems like such an obvious reference to the Soviet gulag it's almost beyond belief that it's happening today in the USA, but I guess there is no more Soviet Union to set the standards we're supposed to be avoiding anymore.

Since being convicted Marie has become what we could call a third-tier celebrity – famous among a limited crowd of people, but for some she's certainly a rock star, along with people like Eric McDavid, Daniel McGowan, Bill Rodgers, Rod Coronado, Peg Millett – an unrepentant radical environmentalist of the direct action variety. The point can't easily be missed by anyone who sees her up close – she has an amateur tattoo job on her left arm that has been added to a more professional, circular, Celtic-looking piece of body art. On one end of the circle is etched "A.L.F.", and on the other side, "E.L.F."

We go back and forth talking about politics and talking about life in prison. Mostly I'm asking questions and she's answering them. I wish I could have brought in a recording device. She has a lot to say about the state of the environmental movement, the Occupy movement, and more. If these movements were a bit more movement-like we'd have more to talk about, but as is so often the case with two leftwingers in the US these days having a conversation about politics, most hopeful references in terms of overthrowing established orders usually have something to do with Latin America or the Arab world.

We talk about those perennial questions of what do you do when you live in such desperate times and most people are not responding with the militancy that change requires. What is it we should be doing, at least among those who are willing to make great sacrifices for the cause? What are the most useful courses of action? Is Derrick Jensen right or wrong? We probably don't see eye to eye on all these questions, but we both enjoy the discussion, and Marie is, as always, open to seriously considering different viewpoints. She's concerned about becoming out of touch with the world around her – an obviously relevant concern in her situation. She wants to remain engaged somehow or other, although cut off from the physical outside world as well as from the virtual world, the internet, only allowed a limited amount of monitored, restricted communication time. She says something positive about the Guardian, a newspaper I also read regularly. She's so hesitant to ask for anything from anyone. I order her a subscription to the Guardian Weekly when I get online the next day.

We're not allowed musical instruments in there or anything else as far as I know, but I wish we could play music together. I regret that I didn't just try organizing a little a cappella singing with her – she's a good singer. But there's so much to talk about, and time seems so short. I had to leave my phone behind so I don't know what time it is, but after two or three hours our time's up. The guards have changed during our visit, and now the guard is an absolutely massive, musclebound man of unmistakably Nordic descent. He looks like Thor, complete with shoulder-length, light blond hair, but his shoulders are wider, and the muscles on his arms, torso and neck are so huge that I wonder if he has the flexibility to touch his own waist.

Thor is even more reserved than the last guard, and clearly doesn't want to be in the position of telling Marie her visit is over. He waits patiently while we say our last good-byes. Marie walks down a hallway where I'm not allowed to follow, smiling but with tears in her eyes. Thor and I walk together through the labyrinth of steel doors together in silence.

When we're outside I venture a little communication. "I wish she could have a guitar," I say.

"I was trying not to listen in on your conversation," he said, "but I'll see what I can do about getting her more access to the music room."

You're terribly understaffed here, is that right? I had heard this from Marie, about cuts to staff at this prison. Thor sort of acknowledged this, but seemed not to want to get too much into that subject. What he did make clear, in a roundabout way, was that letting Marie have access to the music room was not a time-consuming or difficult thing for him to arrange, but that it wasn't up to him. He told me Marie is such a well-behaved prisoner that it's easy for the guards to forget she's there. The look on his face, as with the guard before him, told me that he felt seriously conflicted about what must have felt like keeping his mother under lock and key. Many prisoners fit the part – they "look like criminals," you might say. They're covered with tattoos, they're obviously angry with life, they treat guards and each other with blatant disrespect, and so on. Marie doesn't fit the mold in any way, and I'm pretty sure I could see how uncomfortable this was for these guards.

I drove to the airport, returned my rental car, and flew from Houston back to Portland, via Denver. The flight from Houston to Denver was full of people who had apparently never flown before. The flight was somewhat delayed and everybody on the plane, it seemed, were terribly concerned that they were going to miss their connection and be stranded forever at the Denver airport. Many people were wondering whether the airline was going to pay for a hotel in Denver if they were stranded there. They were constantly harassing the flight attendants for information of all kinds, and all the flight attendants could tell them was that the airline people would do everything they could to make sure they got to their destinations, but this vague bit of information only pissed people off even more. Having done this before, I knew that probably we'd make our connections, because

the folks on the ground in Denver, which was the hub city for the airline in question, would know this flight was delayed and would delay the various connections, which they did. If people did miss their last connection and the airline didn't want to pay for their hotel room, the flight attendants were not the right airline employees to be whining to – you had to save the whining for the customer service desk, if you wanted your whining to actually accomplish anything other than allowing you to blow off steam at some low-wage peon. But blowing off steam at low-wage peons is an American pastime, Americans just do that without giving it any thought, it seems.

In Portland I shared a shuttle with an Army veteran who was heading home after visiting his girlfriend, who is herself in the Army, and he had just been visiting her on another Texas military base. I had a smoke on my porch, enjoying the fresh air that I usually take for granted, and went to sleep in my comfortable bed, with no crazy people waking up sweating and screaming anywhere nearby, no musclebound jail guards walking by with their keys clattering, no fluorescent lights. The next day I went for a walk to a cafe and played with my daughter in a park, something Marie won't be able to do with her kids until they are well into middle age, unless something dramatic happens between now and Marie's release date that changes the scenario. I hope so.

### **22 Jun - René González offers to renounce his US Citizenship to return to Cuba**

*On Friday June 22, Cuban Five prisoner René González presented a new motion before the South Florida District Court asking that they modify his conditions of supervised release and that he be allowed to return to his country of Cuba where his family resides.*

#### **MORE:**

González was released on October 7, 2011, after serving his entire sentence in a U.S. federal prison, but he has been obligated to remain three more years under supervised probation on U.S. soil.

In the latest motion presented last week, González included a number of reasons to be allowed to complete the rest of his probation in Cuba. On this occasion, González offered the Court that he would renounce his U.S. citizenship to make it clear that he has no intention of remaining or returning in the future to the United States.

A similar motion to this latest one was presented by González before he was released from prison. Then, the Judge found that the Defendant's Motion was premature because a term of supervised release does not commence until an individual is "released from imprisonment", and some amount of time on supervised release needs to pass before the Court is able to properly evaluate the characteristics of the defendant once he or she has been released from prison.

After 8 months of complying with all probation requisites, René González asks to modify the conditions of his probation to be allowed to return to Cuba to be reunited with his wife, his daughters and the rest of his family.

The United States cannot persist in keeping René González, who when asked to resign his citizenship, expressed firmly that he is neither interested in living in the United States, nor in returning to this country where he has no working, social, or family links.

What arguments will the State Department use next to continue the unjust punishment of René?

### **25 Jun - Claim: WikiLeaks suspect can't get a fair trial + updates**

*Pfc. Manning's defense team has accused the US government of deliberately attempting to prevent the former army intelligence analyst from receiving a fair trial. We've included an article about it as well as related pieces on the ongoing case.*

#### **MORE:**

Pfc. Manning faces a total of 22 charges - including aiding the enemy - after thousands of classified documents allegedly downloaded by the soldier ended up on WikiLeaks.

According to Manning's civilian lawyer David Coombs, prosecutors are making an "outright misrepresentation" to the court over evidence the defense has attempted to gain access through disclosure.

The current dispute between the prosecution and defense apparently revolves around an internal investigation by the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive (ONCIX), which was conducted to assess the WikiLeaks cables fallout. Indeed, various media reports indicate the leaks may have been responsible for certain "pockets" of short-damage around the world, but were generally more embarrassing than harmful.

"It was abundantly clear that ONCIX had some form of inquiry into the harm from the leaks," Coombs wrote in legal documents obtained by the UK-based [Guardian](#). "[However], the government switched definitions around arbitrarily so as to avoid disclosing this discovery to the defense."

Coombs also noted prosecutors told the court on March 21 that "Oncix [had] not produced any interim or final damage assessment" regarding WikiLeaks - a statement the lawyer believes to have been inaccurate at the time it was made.

"The defense submits [this] was an outright misrepresentation. ONCIX was collecting information from various agencies in late 2010 to assess what damage, if any, was occasioned by the leaks. So how could it be that ONCIX neither had an investigation nor a damage assessment?" Coombs asked rhetorically.

"There is no way that the defense can adequately prepare its case. The government should not be able to circumvent its discovery obligations for two years, then dump discovery on the defense last-minute, and expect that there will be a fair battle. Indeed, the defense believes that this was the intention of the government - to defeat its adversary by adopting untenable litigation positions designed to frustrate discovery."

Although the Pentagon appears set on making an example out of Manning, a number of organizations, activists and artists have leapt to the defense of Manning, claiming the Pfc. shouldn't be punished for his role in leaking secret documents about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, many have questioned whether the Pentagon is even capable of offering Manning a fair trial.

"I don't think anyone disagrees that the government has enough evidence to start a court martial proceeding. The question is whether they should be proceeding," Dan Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers in 1971, told [The Guardian](#) back in December 2011.

"It's outrageous for two reasons. How can there be a fair court martial when the commander in chief, president Obama himself, pronounced that he is guilty [of breaking the law]? Secondly, he has been subjected to 10 and a half months of clearly abusive treatment that in my opinion was immoral and illegal."

### **June 27<sup>th</sup> - Bradley wins discovery documents in court, Alexa O'Brien harassed at Ft. Meade**

On Monday, June 25, Bradley Manning's defense won a battle over discovery documents the prosecution has been hiding throughout the trial. Ed Pilkington details the legal victory [for the Guardian](#):

In Monday's hearing, Coombs crystallised his objections, accusing the prosecution lawyer army Major Ashden Fein of failing to afford Manning a fair trial. "Normally, these games are not played. You hand over discovery and let the facts speak. You don't play hide the ball, and that's what the government's been doing," Coombs said, according to a report by the Associated Press.

By ordering the prosecution to prepare a "due diligence statement", the judge is casting a light on what the prosecution has – or has not – done to disclose evidence to the defence. She gave the army until 25 July to draft the statement.

Lind also came down on the side of Manning when she ordered the military prosecutors to hand over to the court so-called "damage assessments" prepared by a range of government agencies including the CIA, FBI, state department and the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive, Oncix.

Journalist Alexa O'Brien was threatened with arrest and loss of credentials for investigating at Fort Meade. O'Brien, who has covered Bradley Manning's trial in detail from its inception, was attempting to learn why the press room at Ft. Meade was closed during Bradley's most recent motion hearing. When she started asking questions, Ft. Meade personnel told her she was being "disruptive," that she'd broken rules, and that she could be arrested or have her credentials revoked.

O'Brien recorded audio of her discussions and included the recordings in her report of the incident.

This is far from the first account of journalist-intimidation at Ft. Meade. In fact, working to winnow out media access has been the general rule for Bradley's trial. Rainey Reitman chronicled early media access problems for the Nation, expanded on by Nathan Fuller.

Shayana Kadidal has written about how the façade of access to Manning's trial is more insidious than a full media blackout, which would stir controversy whereas choking off access slowly just makes it difficult to cover. Kadidal is a lawyer for the CCR, which is legally petitioning the military for public access to court documents. That petition was rejected, but the CCR is filing an appeal with the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

### **July 1<sup>st</sup> - Bradley Manning Support Network Under Investigation By U.S. Army**

The Bradley Manning Support Network is under investigation by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, as revealed by [a copy of a Freedom of Information Act request response](#). In this case, the request for records pertaining to the activist umbrella group was denied, but the reason for the denial - that "an active investigation is in progress with an undetermined completion date" - is obviously news in and of itself, which is presumably why none of the infotainment outlets posing as news organizations have reported on the development thus far.

As of 1:30 PM CST, the FOIA scan indicating that a network of activists who advocate on behalf of a celebrated accused whistleblower are being pursued by a branch of the U.S. military has not been mentioned by a single news organization with a web presence. Searching Google News brings up nothing; searching Google itself brings up two blogs with what we may presume to be very little reach (building up an audience has less to do with quality than it does with packaging, which is why Thomas Friedman is so popular). Quite possibly there will be mentions of all this by tomorrow in at least a few more places - but having spent years working in the media, analyzing the media, and sometimes being covered by the media, it wouldn't surprise me if coverage were relegated to a handful of specialist sites and perhaps Wired (which itself does some of the best and most crucial reporting on such issues as the NSA Utah Data Center only to have its revelations ignored by general outlets in favor of Secret Service prostitution scandals).

Complaints of this sort are often brushed off by journalists with the more "respectable" outlets with the response that everyone has their pet issue that they believe deserves special attention. In this case, such an excuse wouldn't hold water, nor does today being Sunday serve to explain away the complete absence of coverage thus far. Back in early 2010, when the Wikileaks Twitter account put forth a series of messages to the effect that one of its volunteers had been stopped and questioned and that others were being aggressively pursued by agents of the State Department, there was zero coverage of the incident at all. And the claims of state interference weren't exactly dubious; just a few days prior, Wikileaks had released Pentagon documents that proved the U.S. military was already considering how best to disrupt the organization. Back then, Wikileaks just wasn't on the radar of the U.S. media on the whole. Only later in the year would editors collectively agree that Wikileaks was indeed maybe some sort of big deal - soon after which it collectively decided that it was easier and more fun to ask probing questions about whether or not Julian Assange thinks highly of himself than it was to look through the actual documents that were providing to the world. And of course it became not only clear, but abundantly and repeatedly clear, that a number of covert operations were in the works against Wikileaks and individuals close to it. At any rate, they would eventually agree that this strange new transparency group was shaping up to be a major story, but only long after it had become obvious. Its notability having been eventually established even by the American media reckoning, there's no viable excuse on "Sorry, We Don't Agree That's Notable" grounds for that incident to have been entirely ignored. It's just hard to look back at that day and make the case that it didn't represent a massive failure on the part of the media to see a story coming, even when plenty of other observers saw it quite clearly.

There's probably more at play here than simply groupthink. In both the Wikileaks/State Department incident and the incident I'm bitching about this time, the story was only apparent to the extent that one kept an eye on certain Twitter feeds, particular reddit sections, and other relatively newfangled venues of the sort that didn't exist ten

years ago and which still have attached to them certain vaguely disreputable, quasi-comical connotations in the minds of countless producers and editors. Meanwhile, more and more stories of the sort that clearly merit coverage can be expected to emanate from these allegedly unconventional nooks and crannies, the info itself having been placed on Scribd or pastebin or some other such thing instead of delivered in a press release or spoken at a podium by some well-paid liar. At some point, those whose profession calls upon them to be aware of what's happening are going to have to learn to contend with how much of those happenings are now happening on online thingamajigs with silly names.

To be fair, some professionals of that sort have indeed learned how much data can be gleaned from well-executed examinations of social networking platforms. Unfortunately, most of them work in the surveillance and intelligence sectors of government agencies or private contractors, rather than newsrooms, and are engaged in keeping tabs on such parties as the Bradley Manning Support Network.

## **26 Jun – Toronto G20 conspirator Alex Hundert reports to prison**

*The Canadian government seemed more fixated on Alex Hundert than any of the other G20 convicts. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, he reported to being serving a thirteen and a half month prison sentence and the media, corporate and other, had a lot to write about it. We're sending him a card tonight and we've included some articles as well as a letter from Alex below.*

### **MORE:**

A high-profile Ontario activist accused of planning mayhem at the G20 summit two years ago told a court his prosecution was politically-motivated as he was sent to jail for more than a year Tuesday.

In a packed overflow courtroom, meanwhile, about 100 supporters cheered and shouted support.

Alex Hundert was the last to be sentenced among six people who pleaded guilty last fall to counselling to commit mischief ahead of the summit. The group was convicted for discussing damaging property during protest planning meetings. Mr. Hundert pleaded guilty to a further charge of counselling people to obstruct the police for giving workshops on how to free people from police custody, a technique called “de-arresting.”

In exchange for the guilty pleas, 11 other co-accused had all their charges dropped.

The date of Mr. Hundert's sentencing – the second anniversary of the G20 – was no coincidence. He says the right to choose his sentencing date was written into the plea deal.

Speaking slowly in a clear voice, Mr. Hundert told court Tuesday that the purpose of the undercover police investigation that ended in the arrest of himself and several other activists was to disrupt their political activities and discourage others from getting involved.

He said he accepted that he had broken the law, but that he had pleaded guilty to ensure others, including one co-accused facing deportation, would have their charges withdrawn.

“[This prosecution says] that just being at a meeting where a crime is discussed is illegal,” he said.

His lawyer, John Norris, said his client was a committed activist involved in a variety of community organizations and that the crimes he has been convicted of are only one small part of his activities. Since his conviction, he said Mr. Hundert had been using the time to further his education.

“I am certain he will continue to be involved in causes that make our community a better place,” he said.

Crown attorney Jason Miller, who led the prosecution of Mr. Hundert and his co-accused and delivered speeches at all previous sentencing hearings, declined to do so this time.

Mr. Justice Lloyd Budzinsky, however, had a few choice words for Mr. Hundert, admonishing the 31-year-old for seeking political change outside the rule of law. On several occasions during Mr. Hundert's speech, the judge told him to confine his comments to the task at hand.

Later, he compared the actions of G20 vandals to French Revolutionary Maxime Robespierre, who sought social change through violence.

Mr. Justice Budzinsky said Mr. Hundert's crimes would usually warrant a sentence of two to three years, but should be reduced to 13 and a half months to reflect the time the convicted man spent in pre-trial custody, his subsequent restrictive bail conditions and the fact that he had pleaded guilty.

Mr. Hundert's supporters were barred from the courtroom after disrupting previous proceedings, and instead packed a next-door room with a video link. As he was lead away, they shouted "we love you!" and banged on the wall separating the two rooms.

### **The Political Prosecution of Alex Hundert ends in 13.5 month Prison Sentence**

On June 26, 2012 Alex Hundert was sentenced to 13 and a half months in jail. It was the last court date from the G20 'conspiracy' case, a political case that involved long term undercover cops, 17 (21 at one point) people dragged into one lumped-together court case, unprecedentedly strict bail conditions and finally a reluctant plea bargain. I'm trying to write dispassionately to some extent, like a journalist, but I'm remembering last year on the G20 anniversary Alex and I were working together editing the last issue of The Spoke, the TMC broadsheet founded to cover the G20 protests, and the issue he helped write and edit but couldn't help distribute as he wasn't allowed anywhere near the protest due to his bail conditions. Now his bail is over and he's serving over a year a jail, mainly, in my opinion, for being an effective organizer who helped bridge the divide between the radical settler left and indigenous struggles, especially at Six Nations and Grassy Narrows.

Alex was arrested on an [early morning house-raid](#) in the wee hours of the morning of the Saturday of G20 two years ago. He was eventually released on extremely restrictive bail conditions, and then re-arrested twice. One of the arrests was after speaking at an indoor academic panel at Ryerson University, which the state decided was 'a public demonstration'. He was coerced through threats of solitary confinement into signing [extremely restrictive bail](#) conditions including the infamous '[no media](#)' interpretation of conditions. He was eventually [granted bail](#) and had some the no media restriction eased but remained at risk or re-arrest and sufferent frequent visits from the bail complicity unit.

The 2201 Finch courthouse is colloquially known as the 'gangs and guns' courthouse, not by coincidence located near Jane and Finch, a reminder that police repression is not an exceptional event but an everyday experience for many. Alex gave a press conference to reporters, than went through the metal detectors into the courthouse surrounded by a crowd of about 30 supporters, hugging some of them as he went.

Once inside the courthouse Alex bade goodbye again to his friends and family and went through the second metal detector into the special courtroom. Supporters followed, but almost no one was allowed into the courtroom itself because of fears of disruption- this particular courtroom is set up with a TV in an 'overflow room' to make minimal pretense of open court while effectively closing off the 'justice' system to a closed circuit system. Myself and another reporter from media co-op were not allowed into the main courtroom, an aggressive court policeman told us that "you'd have to be the frikken Toronto Star to get in here." A CBC reporter was also denied entrance to the actual courtroom. The anteroom was an emotional scene with friends of Alex and relatives, accused 'co-conspirators', some already having finished their jail sentences, some with charges dropped.

Alex's statement was interrupted many times by the judge, it was like a political debate between a revolutionary theorist and the comment section of a right wing newspaper. The judge refused to accept that the case was political and many times interrupted Alex when he made political points, while making uninformed political points of his own. At one point the judge compared the G20 protests to the famous Nazi anti-jewish pogrom of [Kristallnacht](#), especially offensive given Alex's long history of anti-fascist organizing.

Alex began his closing arguments "It has been stated through the proceeding by judges and justice of the peace that this case isn't about politics. What I want to suggest is that that's ridiculous... This is so obviously political, and every time that a judge says this isn't political it puts the justice system into disrepute. The best example about how the G20 is treated differently is to look at what happens when people do similar things. In Vancouver

[during the hockey riots] some guy smashed up some windows and a cop car and got one months. They are trying to give Kelly Pflug-Beck 20 months for what is basically the same thing.”

The judge also claimed that Alex and the other G20 organizers were ineffective activists and that they should have organized something like “The Arab Spring was a social media protest which was a peaceful protest”.

Alex contradicted the judge “People were getting killed live on the CNN [in Egypt], it was a tremendously violent movement- but it had popular support and so it was called a peaceful movement. that’s what we do when we like something we call it peaceful, when we don’t we call them violent... as for the suggestion that I am willing to use violence to achieve political ends- I would suggest that when it comes down to it almost anyone is okay with using violence for political ends. If I refuse to leave court today ballifs will come and drag me away, that is violence and that is coercive. Canada is not some oasis in a messed up world, Canada is a huge part of the problem. The G20 was one of the few times in Toronto that protest looked like protest in the rest of the world.”

Separated from the actual proceedings, supporters cheered Alex’s statements and booed especially egregious statements from the judge, occasionally howling and yelling commentary. Longtime organizer Tom Keefer commented outside the courthouse: “The judge has no understanding of history or of politics and reveals himself as a bafoon as soon as he opens his mouth. Arguing that the Arab spring was a non-violent movement when it was started by a man who lit himself on fire, if you ask me that’s pretty fucking violent, obviously it is a violence directed toward his own body to draw attention to it, but literally hundreds of people have been massacred by security forces and to say nothing of however your analysis is of Syria or Libya, it is obviously connected to the Arab Spring and it is most certainly not non-violent. There’s literally hundreds of martyrs that died in Tahrir Square that died for freedom and democratic rights fighting against a US-backed government”

In his ruling at the closing of proceedings the judge called Alex’s actions ‘self centered and arbitrary’ and sentenced him to 13 and a half months in jail, in addition to the time he had already served in jail on and on severe bail restrictions. He also aruged that the State’s ‘rule of law’ is superior to a supposed ‘rule of force’ that he incorrectly thinks anarchists belive in (rather than mutal aid and community), ignoring the monopoly of force granted to the State and the immidiate presence of court officers with guns regulating everything that went on in the courthouse.

The gallery exploded into consternation aimed that judges extremely unfair statement, which, given that Alex was pleading out and spending in order to spare his comrades jail time and possible deportation, is basically the opposite of the truth. As they escorted Alex out of the courtroom, people in the room watching on the T.V. screen pounded on the walls and cheered loudly, hoping that Alex would hear the commotion and know that they sent solidarity with him as he begins his sentence.

Outside the overflow room in the hallway and in the bright sunlight outside Alex’s friends, family and fellow organizers hugged each other, many with tears in their eyes. Supporters included former co-defendents, people from the April 28th movement, and [Fran ‘Flower’ Doxtator](#), a land defender who was heading to her own political court date for defence of Six Nation’s land.

Alex’s call out for court support had made it clear that the his own political persecution is part of a general repression of dissent and called for activists to support Six Nations land defenders and arranged his own court callout to reflect his priorities. He wrote on the [conspiretoresist](#) website:

“Since 2006 there has been a particularly insidious wave of criminalization and demonization aimed at Haudenosaunee people who are asserting the sovereignty of the Six Nations Confederacy and defending the land. The tactics used in everyday policing operations against Six Nations, like those with other Indigenous nations, are exactly the type of oppressive state security that the rest of southern Ontario “activist community” got a taste of around the G20.”

Composing themselves, the small crowd dispersed, some heading to Flower’s courtdate in Cayuga, others to the rally for [Mohammad Mahjoub](#) held in Canada on security certificate for 12 years and never charged. This

continued with the organizing work that Alex was so dedicated to, and would have been doing at that moment were he free and not being procced for incarceration.

Court cases continue in other G20 related trials, with Kelly Pflug-Beck and George Horton's court dates later this summer and others continuing into the fall. Leah Henderson and Many Hiscocks, so called 'co-conspirators' are currently being held at the Vanier Centre for Women. Alex is currently at Toronto West Detention centre and expected to be transferred to another prison shortly.

### **A G20 protestor's youth in revolt**

When he co-founded an anti-war group at Wilfrid Laurier University five years ago, Alex Hundert gave some direction to a previously aimless life. He grew up middle-class in Toronto, was booted from preparatory school for poor attendance as a teen and spent most of his early 20s partying hard and bumming around ski hills in British Columbia.

In committing himself to radical politics, however, he also put himself on a path that would eventually lead to his arrest on conspiracy charges before the G20 summit. On Tuesday, the summit's second anniversary, Mr. Hundert will go to prison after pleading guilty to reduced counts of counselling to commit mischief.

Police and prosecutors have portrayed Mr. Hundert, 31, as a ringleader of the mayhem on the streets that weekend. It's a characterization he's uncomfortable with: The concept of a leader is anathema to the anarchist movement of which he was a part.

"I think it's a question of what we mean by leader," says Mr. Hundert, wearing a black baseball cap over a long ponytail tied at the nape of his neck. He's sitting on a concrete ledge on the back porch of a Toronto house where many of anti-G20 protests were planned. "Did I have any authority? No. Did I exhibit leadership? Sure."

That question – to what extent the G20 riot was organized ahead of time – has been central to the case. While officials maintained Mr. Hundert and his cohorts met to plan the chaos in which police cars were torched and windows smashed on the streets, activists insist authorities misunderstood non-hierarchical organizing techniques. To them, the riot was the result of many groups and individuals deciding to act out.

In his earlier life, it would have been difficult to imagine Mr. Hundert planning much of anything. He says he was expelled from prestigious Upper Canada College, then from North Toronto Collegiate Institute. He graduated from Oakwood Collegiate Insitute and, after a brief stint at the University of Toronto, headed to Whistler, B.C., where he spent three years skiing and working as a bouncer and a cook.

One New Year's Eve, he was hit by a truck while crossing the road during a snowstorm. The collision broke his femur, forcing him to stay in bed for months. He eventually decided to go back to school.

Gradually, he fell into activist organizing in his spare time, getting involved in on-campus politics at Wilfrid Laurier University and participating in fundraisers.

In 2007, he co-founded Anti-War at Laurier, known widely as AW@L. This group and the Southern Ontario Anarchist Resistance, of which he was also a member, were infiltrated by undercover police officers posing as activists. On the morning of the primary day of protests, Mr. Hundert and several others were arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit mischief.

Much of the Crown's case against the group revolved around a meeting surreptitiously taped by an undercover officer the night before. While there are references to property destruction, no one can agree on what will actually happen the next day.

"Are we consenting to have no plan?" one facilitator asks near the end of the meeting, to cheers of approval.

Syed Hussan, who was arrested as part of the same alleged conspiracy but whose charges were later dropped, said the point of the meeting was to share information. Decisions on whether to break windows or confront police were made on the streets by small individual groups, not centrally co-ordinated, he said.

And despite the infiltration by police and the arrests of the alleged ringleaders, the riot still happened.

“They gathered some intelligence, they couldn’t understand the rest of it, they arrested a whole bunch of people,” Mr. Hussan said. “Yet, another very large community of people still did what it wanted to do.”

Mr. Hundert said he believes the case against the group was politically motivated, designed to discourage others from confrontational protests.

“It’s obviously about the politics,” he said. “One of the ridiculous things, one of the infuriating things, is they keep insisting that it’s not.”

Mr. Hundert and his co-accused were released on bail conditions placing some under house arrest, prohibiting them from attending protests and communicating with each other. Last fall, shortly after their preliminary inquiry had begun, prosecutors offered to negotiate.

Mr. Hussan said that, at first, the Crown simply told them they wanted a certain number of people to plead guilty and take a certain amount of jail time. Prosecutors had another condition: they would not accept a plea deal unless everyone -- including accused ringleaders like Mr. Hundert and fellow activist Mandy Hiscocks -- were part of it. Mr. Hundert made sure it was written into the deal that he would get to choose his sentencing date.

“I realized I had a couple of chips left and I played them,” he said.

Mr. Hundert said that, since the case never went to trial, it’s difficult to say what, exactly, he and others did wrong. He admits to helping to create a “target list” of places that would be appropriate for protesters to converge. He said he knew some of the locations on the list -- which included banks, police stations and political offices -- would be vandalized, but never specifically instructed people to do so. He also led a workshop teaching people how to de-arrest other protesters.

“I’m sure I did something illegal,” he says. “But no one can tell you exactly what it was.”

Mr. Hundert pleaded guilty to helping to create a “target list” for a group called the Toronto Community Mobilization Network. The list included names and locations of banks, police stations, political offices and other locations in Toronto that would be appropriate for protests. He says he knew some of them would be vandalized, but never specifically instructed people to do so.

He also led a workshop teaching people how to “de-arrest” other protesters, including by surrounding them and pulling them away from a police officer on the street.

### **Support Six Nations land defenders**

This is a letter I am writing to everyone who supported me over the past two years, since our arrests brought to light the massive police operation against a group of solidarity activists and community organisers.

In that time I have received such an incredible amount of support from friends and family, from allies, from “movement” organisations, and also from civil liberties organisations, academic and journalist associations, and unions. I have a tremendous amount of gratitude and appreciation for all of it.

As I head back into jail on Tuesday, lots of people have been offering renewed support, and having seen how substantial that support can be, I am asking that the support people are hoping to give to me over the next year, be instead extended to the new Legal Defence Fund recently established for Six Nations Land Defenders.

The type of targeting, repression, manipulation, intimidation and harassment that were directed at anarchist and other activist communities in the lead up to the Olympics and the G20 are realities that are standard fare in Indigenous communities where resistance to colonialism is a part of daily life.

However, in the years since the Reclamation action in 2006, people from Six Nations have not always seen the same kind of support that I and some of the other G20 defendants received.

Part of what is sadly ironic about the contrasting levels of support is that those who were most directly targeted by the intelligence/security operation against activists in the lead up to the G20 were those whose primary organising work includes building linkages and relationships with the strong network of Indigenous Sovereignists and their allies, migrant justice organisers, and anarchists. The policing operation was largely designed to disrupt those relationships and that movement building. These are standard tactics used against the resistance movements that arise from Indigenous and other racialized or otherwise targeted communities.

I would like to propose that we now strengthen those linkages by turning the massive capacity for support that we have developed over the past two years towards supporting front line land defenders from Six Nations.

Since 2006 there has been a particularly insidious wave of criminalisation and demonisation aimed at Haudenosaunee people who are asserting the sovereignty of the Six Nations Confederacy and defending the land. The tactics used in everyday policing operations against Six Nations, like with other Indigenous nations, are exactly the type of oppressive state security that the rest of the southern Ontario “activist community” got a taste of around the G20.

I would strongly encourage you to consider formally supporting the new Six Nations Land Defenders Legal Defence Fund.

The fund is currently being administered and coordinated by the April 28 Coalition which includes organisers from Six Nations as well as established allies from various unions and activist organisations. If the fund is successful, a formal board of directors will be established and procedures codified. For now, the immediate concern is fundraising for Francine “Flower” Doxtator and Kevin “Sleeper” Greene, though the goal is a sustainable fund that can cover legal costs for people from Six Nations who are charged while engaging in land defence actions.

Support for the Six Nations Land Defenders Legal Defence Fund could include a formal endorsement, a public statement of support, promotion within your organisations or networks, and/or making donations. Please contact the April 28 Coalition ([kanonhstaton@gmail.com](mailto:kanonhstaton@gmail.com)) for more information, or visit this link to donate directly: <http://bit.ly/K39HCN>.

Thanks again so much for your continued support

Sincerely,  
alex hundert  
**Alex Hundert**  
**Toronto West Detention Centre**  
**111 Disco Road**  
**Box 4950**  
**Rexdale, Ontario**  
**M9W 5L6**  
**Canada**

### **26 Jun – Statement by Leonard Peltier**

*American Indian Movement political prisoner Leonard Peltier recently released the following statement.*

#### **MORE:**

Greetings my relatives,

First of all before I get into talking about anything, I want to tell you how much I deeply appreciate your remembering all the people who stood for what’s right at the Oglala Confrontation. And I deeply want to thank you for remembering me and the chance to express myself to you. Each time that I am asked about putting together a comment for any kind of event I always think to myself what if I never got to say another thing. As you get older, that could very easily be a reality. So I try to give a lot of thought to what I say to you and to

others and especially to any young people who might be listening to my words. And I want to be quite honest. The words I have to say are the teachings of our people, our elders, our medicine people and things I've learned in life the hard way. And things I've learned in a good way. If speaking to you in some way makes your life better or prevents you from going to prison or being hurt or losing your land or your culture or helps in regaining the things our people have lost, then I feel it will be worthwhile.

I hope and pray that none of the young people will ever end up in any prison situation. And especially end up in prison for trying to do what is right and defending what is right. In this prison setting the days go by oh so slowly and the months and years as I look back at them all kind of fold into one; because every day is so much the same. There are very few highlights and you hear of people having nightmares in their dreams but in here the nightmare is in your waking moments. And in your sleep you are free for a while.

I want to say how much I appreciate and respect our people for not selling or giving up the Black Hills in South Dakota. And how much I want to encourage all our people to remain strong and do everything they can to regain our culture. If we are ever to be a strong people again, that we once were, it will be because we have taken responsibility to regain our strength. This government will never return anything meaningful that is still of some money value to them. This is not my opinion, it is reality and obvious to anyone who pays attention. We must do everything we can to regain strength of self-discipline. We must do everything we can to fully take responsibility for our future. Our ancestors before us fought and died and suffered for us. Each person here today is a result of someone who in the face of death and imprisonment stood and said, "The future of my children and my children's children and generations to come, is worth living and dying for." We should never let those sacrifices be in vain. The Creator of all things does not want our death; the Creator of all things wants our life; wants us to live for ourselves and for our children, and to protect the earth and nature for our future generations. That is who we are.

If you feel or have come to believe that you have a calling to do a certain thing for your people, if you prayed about it in ceremony and you feel this is a true thing in your life, then you should educate yourself with every part of that calling. Don't wait for it to come to you. Go find that knowledge. Knowledge is strength - knowledge is power - knowledge is survival - knowledge and truth comes from the Creator and belongs to everyone. Don't worry about who said what or who said it first or who said it last; figure out how you can use it to better the life or yourself and our people. The movement of our people that has existed ever since Columbus landed in the Caribbean belongs to all our people. It needs no sanction from anyone. It belongs to no man or no woman. It truly belongs to our people because it is the spirit of our people saying, "We want to regain what we lost and protect what we have for ourselves and our future generations."

Another issue I want talk about for a moment, is the issue of alcohol and drugs, I know from personal experience that it's hard to avoid those things when you grow up around them. I can tell you for a fact that alcohol and drugs will not bring you the life that you want. This world has a lot of beauty in it, a lot of joys and challenges, and it has challenges that hurt, but meet those challenges and know the beauty of this earth and this life. You need to be clear minded. Traditionally our people observed nature and got their inspiration from nature and if there is some place in nature where the wolf polluted his brain or the elk or the eagle or any other creature, I'm not aware of it. We need every ounce of good thinking that we have and can get to protect our lives and our children and our culture.

And I want to tell you for a fact that boredom is a part of life, no matter where you are, and if you get up and go find something to do when all around you are getting drunk or using drugs, after a while you will get better at finding things to do. And your life will be far better. And getting depressed is a part of life, but you don't learn how to deal with it by putting in into your body that weren't meant to be there. That's why the creator gave us our medicines and our ceremonies and each other, so that we could with a clear mind, enjoy life, and protect life and rescue life where it was endangered. If there is someone hearing this that has thought about taking their own life, I would encourage you to rather than throw your life away, give your life to your people. Let your life stand for something. Don't let the sacrifices of our ancestors be for nothing.

Also I want to say, that you can do all the right things day after day, year in and year out and still bad things can happen. But if you have a clear mind, and have developed your own self-discipline in knowing who you are, you can take these bad things as challenges and use them to make yourself stronger and your people stronger and prevent them from happening to yourself or to others that you care about. And I want to say again, especially for the young people, that one of the most important things you can learn that most of our ceremonies are based on is developing your personal self-discipline. And learning to take responsibility for yourself and your future and taking care of your health, is the greatest gift you have on this earth at this time. And the most important thing that would enhance all your lives in making it stronger and better is to develop personal relationship with the Creator. Don't let it be based on some other person's approach to spirituality but find the things that work for you.

Our teachings have always shown us how to find our own vision through prayer and fasting and sacrifice. These things help bring forth the elements of our spirit and make us stronger and help us face the challenges of life. I hope that in hearing my words some of you if not all, will be inspired in a good way. My greatest hope is that you will think about these things and apply them to your life as you find the truth of them. And sometimes I know we have to return to what we said, maybe have someone speak it to us again or read it again, but whatever happens I sincerely pray and hope that all our lives will be better and for the better and not just for our people but for all people. Because our way is not just another way of life it is THE way of life. It is life seeking life, it is life protecting life, it is living in such a way that all things are reborn every Spring.

I'll close for now, thank you for your time, thank you for listening, remember the sacrifices of those who lived and died for you. Remember Joe Stuntz, and all the others who gave their lives, as I know you do, I would love to be with you now, today, and know that in my heart I am, in my heart I stand next to you. May the creator bless you always in all ways.

Your relative,  
Leonard Peltier

### **28 Jun – Lynne Stewart appeal denied**

*On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit confirmed the 2010 decision of Federal District Court Judge John Koeltl to change his 28-month jail sentence for radical attorney and human rights activist, Lynne Stewart, to ten years.*

#### **MORE:**

The court's June 28, 2012 decision was not unexpected.

Following federal prosecutors' appeal of what was widely considered a "lenient sentence," the Second Circuit all but ordered a compliant Koeltl to re-sentence Stewart and harshly. Koeltl did just that forcing Stewart to appeal to the very court that originally pressured Koeltl, in what was widely considered a "career decision" to do Stewart great harm.

Stewart was convicted at an outrageous 2005 New York frame-up trial on five counts of conspiracy to aid and abet and provide material support to terrorism. Her crime? Representing the "blind Sheik," the Egyptian cleric, Omar Abdel Rachman, who has also been convicted on trumped-up conspiracy charges, Stewart issued a press release from her client stating his views on how Egyptian Muslim oppositionists should react to the ongoing crimes and murders of Egypt's then President Hosni Mubarak.

Stewart was convicted of violating a vaguely-worded court-ordered SAM (Special Administrative Measure) that barred her from revealing her client's opinions. The penalty for such violations had traditionally been a mild slap on the wrist, perhaps a warning to not repeat the "violation" and to bar attorney-client visits for a few months. Stewart, barring an unlikely Supreme Court reversal, will now serve her ten-year sentence with perhaps a one-

year or ten percent reduction for "good behavior." She is presently incarcerated at FMC Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas.

Koeltl's original 28-month sentence statement, in the face of federal prosecutors demanding 30 years, noted that Stewart, known for representing the poor and oppressed for three decades with little financial remuneration, was a "credit to the legal profession." Stewart served as lead counsel for her client along with former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who testified on her behalf during the trial. Clark himself has issued similar press releases with no punishment. Indeed, an indignant prosecutor during Stewart's trial suggested that Clark himself be charged with conspiracy, but his superiors decided that imprisoning the nation's former top attorney was not yet in their game plan and the suggestion was ignored.

The Second Circuit decision was based on the allegations that Stewart demonstrated insufficient deference to the original sentence. The court claimed that her statement to the media immediately following her sentence that, "I can do 28 months standing on my head" demonstrated contempt for the legal system. I was standing next to Stewart at that moment and saw nothing other than a great expression of relief that she would not be sentenced, in effect to death, based on the 30 years that federal prosecutors sought. Stewart entered the sentencing hearing on that day, totally ignorant of whether her sentence would be the deeply punishing 30 years demanded by the federal prosecutors or perhaps something that she, 70 years old at the time, could "live with" and look forward to a normal life. She carried nothing but a plastic bag, some medicines and a toothbrush.

The Second Circuit also took umbrage at Stewart's courageous statement when she took the stand to make her closing remarks. Her attorney at that moment, Michael Tiger, asked, referring to Stewart's issuing the press release on her client's behalf, "Lynne, if you had to do it all over again would you do the same thing?" With a tear in her eye, Stewart stated, "I would hope that I would have the courage to do it again, I would do it again." Stewart also insisted that her sworn duty to represent her client had to be weighed against the formalities of laws or court orders that prevented such diligent representation.

This refusal to bow to authority, to show the "required deference" to legal bullies with power, outraged her persecutors, who sought vengeance in the rigged criminal "justice" system.

Stewart's now rejected appeal argued three essential points:

- I. In relying on Lynne Stewart's public statements to enhance the original sentence of 28 months, her First Amendment rights were abridged
- II. The fourfold increase in the sentence was substantively unreasonable and failed to balance her lifetime of contribution to the community and country with the criminal act of which she was convicted.
- III The Judge's findings of Perjury and Misuse of her position as an Attorney on which he also based the increase, were error.

"Free Lynne Stewart" must remain the rallying cry of all those who cherish civil liberties and democratic rights. Stewart, like so many others, but perhaps among the first tier, was a victim of the government-promoted malicious and murderous "war on terror" aimed at stifling all dissent and imprisoning the innocent to justify its wars against working people at home and against the oppressed and exploited across the globe.

### **28 Jun - Lessons From Occupy Wall Street's First Political Prisoner**

*Mark Adams' short but excessive sentence is, for many, an introduction to the risks of dissent.*

#### **MORE:**

While media pundits sound out death knells for Occupy, many committed participants are now facing harsh consequences for their involvement. Mark Adams, a long-term fixture in New York's Occupy Wall Street community, woke up this morning in Riker's Island prison, where last week he began a 45-day sentence and earned the unenviable title as Occupy's first sentenced political prisoner.

Of course, the imprisonment of political activists dates back as long as any carceral system. For many Occupy supporters, however, the unpermitted encampments, street marches and building occupations of the last nine months were a first foray into the sort of direct action that lands you at the blunt end of a police baton, the right side of history, but sometimes, the inside of a cage.

"It's been really jarring for most of us," said Tess Cohen, 25, a longtime Occupy participant in New York who has been helping organize support for Adams. Adams was convicted last week of trespassing, criminal mischief and criminal possession of burglary tools during an Occupy action last year. "There are people who've been in activism for a long time and have some experience with friends in prison. For those of us who have not - myself included - this has been a really traumatic experience," Cohen added.

Adams, along with seven others, [was found guilty of trespassing on public space privately owned by Trinity Church](#) - one of the largest landowners in New York City. On December 17, the eight were part of a large crowd that surged into the empty Duarte Square lot, climbing over and under the eight-foot chain-link fence to occupy the space. Having been evicted from their Zuccotti Park base the month before, Occupiers had asked Trinity Church to allow an encampment in the vacant Duarte Square space. When the church refused, activists decided to take the lot nonetheless in protest of the church's refusal to make use of their unused property to provide shelter. Lawyers acting in defense of those charged argued that signs around Duarte Square pronounced the space to be public. Seven of the defendants found guilty of trespass were given four days community service and fines; Adams' extra charges earned him a prison sentence. The presiding judge sentenced Adams to 15 days longer than the 30 days asked for by the prosecution and cited the foundational importance of private property in his ruling against the so-called D17 defendants.

Many of New York's OWS stalwarts quickly sprung into action to develop a support network for Adams, organizing letter writing and visitation plans for their well-loved comrade, distinct with his thick black beard, bald head and broad smile. A number of anarchists and activists have been keen to point out, however, that Adams' short sentence should not overshadow attention and support for political prisoners languishing for years in US prisons, with limited access to outside contact and solidarity networks.

"I'm very saddened by [Adams'] sentencing, but realize that if you are to continue with this struggle, this is just the beginning ... There have been many, long before Adams, with much harsher sentencing," wrote New York-based activist Joe Lupo on Twitter, in response to some of the tribute Twitter feeds and Tumblr sites set up for Adams.

A spokesperson from New York Anarchist Black Cross Federation (NYC ABC), which organizes letter writing and support networks for political prisoners, emphasized that solidarity does not equate to making martyrs or heroes of those incarcerated: "They are folks, just like the rest of us, who the state wants to tear away from their communities in hopes of scaring everyone away from fighting for what they believe."

Earlier this month, NYC ABC organized a fundraising karaoke night for two activists, whose long-term prison sentences are thought by many to be politically motivated, and underline Lupo's point. Eco-activist Marie Mason is three years into a 22-year sentence for arson and property damage aimed toward targets in the fur industry and genetically modified crop research. Mason's lawyer called 22 years an "excessively harsh" sentence, even for serial arson, in which, importantly, no individuals were injured or killed. The Guardian UK's Suzanne Goldberg wrote that the case was ["a prime example" of courts using "domestic terrorism laws to stiffen the punishment for politically inspired violence" since 9/11.](#)

The NYC ABC event also raised money for environmentalist Eric McDavid, sentenced to 20 years in 2008 for conspiring to use fire or explosives to damage corporate and government property. McDavid, along with a small group of eco-activists infiltrated by an FBI informant, allegedly planned to sabotage the Nimbus Dam and other targets considered threatening to the environment. McDavid's defense continues to claim entrapment by the FBI. Will Potter, author of "Green is the New Red," about how animal rights and environmental activists came to be targeted by authorities as terrorists, wrote that McDavid's sentence was ["shocking enough, considering that the average sentence for violent offenders, in 2004, was about 7.6 years."](#)

The fundraiser was well attended by longtime New York anarchists well acquainted with cases like Mason's and McDavid's, however, many Occupy mainstays for whom the issue of politically motivated prison sentencing may become increasingly relevant were absent.

Indeed, a handful of Occupy supporters who headed to Chicago last month to protest the NATO summit now face domestic terror charges in a case that smacks of entrapment to many legal experts and long-term activists. Heidi Boghosian, director of the National Lawyers Guild, noted that "the 'war on terror' lowered the bar for conspiracy charges. As a result, activists may face terrorism indictments which come with sentencing enhancements and jury pools tainted by media hype. In political cases, the objective of the prosecution is often the vilification of the accused as much as it is obtaining a conviction."

Boghosian points out that such villainization of activists is already at play in the case of the NATO 3 - three protesters arrested in Chicago, who face, as she put it, "a litany of never-before-used Illinois state terrorism charges based on secret evidence and grand jury proceedings." The activists' defense lawyer, Michael Deutsch, has called the charges "fabricated" and "based on police informants and provocateurs which is a common pattern that we have seen against people who are protesting."

Whether the title "Occupy" is maintained or not, the desire for political and social upheaval that underpinned Occupy actions and affinities has not been extinguished. In consequence, those radicalized by Occupy may come to know many more political prisoners than Adams in the months and years to come. Gideon Oliver, head of the National Lawyers Guild's New York chapter and who acted on the defense team for the D17 defendants, noted that there is both a "crisis and an opportunity" in coming to realize how the criminal justice system harshly treats dissent. "The opportunity is to learn about solidarity, to learn from the past and to learn about how other movements have survived," he said.

Few people know this lesson quite like Andy Stepanian, a political activist, artist and publisher who spent three years in a federal prison following the landmark SHAC 7 (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty) case in 2006. Stepanian, along with five others, was convicted of conspiracy charges for using a web site to incite attacks on those doing business with animal testing laboratories, Huntingdon Life Sciences. The web site, however, gave no specific directives for acts of violence to any specific individuals, and thus should have been protected as political speech, argued the defense to no avail. Stepanian is now able to speak at length about the importance of jail support to political activism, noting that "jail is traumatic no matter how long or short a sentence is," but that while organizing letter writing, visits, funds and phone-ins, he said, "it is also important to make sure to never lose sight of the reasons why that activist went to jail in the first place. The fight should never go to prison with the prisoner, therefore supporters must vow to not only pick up the torch in the prisoner's absence, but take it a step further by doubling-down on their efforts to make sure that the cause for which she/he went to prison does not fall by the wayside in their absence."

Adams announced last week that he is on hunger strike, drinking only juice, and plans to remain so throughout his sentence. Some consider this an extreme move for his comparatively brief jail time, but others see Adams' choice as a tactic to draw attention to prisoners facing longer sentences for whom collective hunger strikes are sometimes the only leverage to improve harsh conditions. Later this week, an OWS "community dialogue" will take place in Lower Manhattan to expand support for Adams "into an exploration of how our community can confront the broader injustice of the prison industrial complex," according to the event announcement.

"We miss and love Mark, but we'll get him back soon," said Shawn Carrie, a well-known figure in OWS circles, adding, "but people are really making the connections between what's happened to Mark and other political prisoners, and the entire prison industrial complex."

### **30 Jun – Urgent action needed for Black Panther political prisoner Eddie Conway**

*Eddie Conway has been in a twenty day battle to get regularly prescribed medication for his high blood pressure. This is a life threatening situation that could lead to stroke or heart attack. We need supporters to email Thomas Sullivan at [tpsullivan@dpscs.state.md.us](mailto:tpsullivan@dpscs.state.md.us) and demand that Eddie be given his medication NOW. This is an ongoing problem that frequently occurs, due to simple incompetence. Please send an email ASAP.*

## **1 Jul - Last update on Kellie and Victor**

*Former animal liberation prisoners Kellie and Victor VanOrden's support crew have sent out a final update and we've pasted it below. Victor is being retroactively charged \$50 a day for every day he served and now owes over \$2,000. See below.*

### **MORE:**

You are reading this if you are wondering what has happened to Victor and Kellie. Kellie and Victor are now happily living in Maryland with their family. Thank you all for your support and gracious efforts to help these two wonderful activists. They are eternally grateful to you all. Victor has incurred yet one last legal bill which arrived just a couple days ago to his house. It's from the jail in Iowa that he was locked up in, and is in the amount of a couple thousand. They charged him \$50 for every night that he was there. If you would like to donate any further money you can do so by sending a personal check or money order to: Bonnie VanOrden (this is Victor's mom who is handling all the legal fees) 5145 Porterstown Road Keedysville, Maryland 21756  
Thanks!

## **14 Jul – A New York night with Oscar López Rivera**

**WHAT:** Benefit dance

**WHEN:** 6:00pm-midnight, Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Local 1199 Auditorium – 310 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street (near 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue)

**COST:** \$20 (food and drinks sold separately); suggested donation for students and unemployed: \$10

### **MORE:**

Dance to the musical sabor of Zon Del Barrio as well as DJs Laylo and Asho. U.S held Political Prisoner Oscar López Rivera has been in Federal Prison for 31 years. His "crime" has been fighting against the Human Rights abuse of colonialism, an act legal under international law. The crime for which this Vietnam veteran was convicted was "seditious conspiracy." We want him home, with his family, friends and compañeros.

For tickets call Espe Martell: 212.927.9065

## **23 Jul - Solidarity Rally & Court Support for Jeremy Hammond**

**WHAT:** Rally + court support for Jeremy Hammond

**WHERE:** Foley Square, New York, New York

**WHEN:** 2:30pm, Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>

**COST:** Free

### **MORE:**

On the 23rd July 2012, the Jeremy Hammond Support Network will sponsor a rally in NYC to show support for the accused hacktivist. Friends, family, and supporters of Jeremy Hammond will gather at Foley Square for a brief march to the Metropolitan Correctional Center where we will pack the courtroom in solidarity with Jeremy Hammond.

We wish to make clear our intent to peacefully fill the courtroom. We are there to support Jeremy, and the more people that actually make it into the courtroom, the better. We have been told that in the past, individuals have been denied access to the court for wearing Anonymous-related emblems. Jeremy wishes to make it clear that he encourages people to wear their Anonymous gear if they so wish.

The event will be covered live on irc.anonops.pro #freeanons via sms-irc, courtesy of the the Freeanons Solidarity Network ([www.freeanons.org](http://www.freeanons.org)).

Jeremy is accused of taking part in the compromise of Strategic Forecasting, Inc. (aka "Stratfor") computer systems, and providing information to the website Wikileaks. This information, released by Wikileaks under the

name “The Global Intelligence Files” (<http://wikileaks.org/gifiles/> ) revealed even further corruption within the U.S. intelligence community – including plans to target and infiltrate domestic popular movements such as Occupy.

A social activist himself, Jeremy was deeply involved in some of the very movements targeted. While organizing demonstrations against the NATO Summit in Chicago, Jeremy was arrested for involvement in the Stratfor hack, based on the testimony and actions of FBI informant, Hector Xavier Monsegur. Monsegur himself was facing 105 years in a Federal Penitentiary if he could not assist the FBI in identifying and apprehending other alleged members of Anonymous and Lulz Security (<http://dc406.com/Monsegur-Hector-Xavier-Information.pdf> ).

There is ample evidence to show that the Stratfor hack was organized, planned, and orchestrated by the FBI, through the agency of Hector Monsegur, for the expressed purpose of entrapping alleged Anonymous hackers. We understand that Jeremy's years of organizing for social justice show him to clearly possess a more noble character than that of his accuser, Hector Monsegur, best known for hacking into the website of an online casino and using his former employer's credit card in 2010 to make \$15,000 in unauthorized purchases clearly shows that he is not a reliable witness or person of good moral character.

We demand all charges be dropped against Jeremy Hammond! We demand an investigation into the tactics used by the FBI to entrap alleged members of Anonymous and Lulzsec!